

THE
ARCHITECT
& BUILDING NEWS

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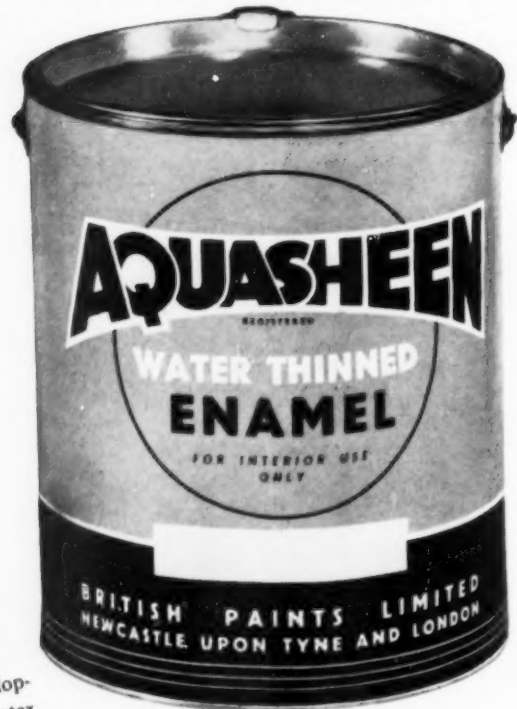
VOL. 206

NO. 2

ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

- TWO HOUSES BY ARCHITECTS FOR THEMSELVES
- SWISS VILLAGE CHURCH

A New Triumph For "British Paints" Laboratories



"AQUASHEEN" is the most remarkable development in the Paint Industry for years. It is not a Latex Emulsion Paint but is quite new and different.

"AQUASHEEN" gives a beautiful and enduring gloss finish—yet it is water thinned.

"AQUASHEEN" is applied as easily, as quickly, as conventional water paint.

"AQUASHEEN" is touch dry in one hour (though to preserve the gloss, second coats should not be applied for six hours).

"AQUASHEEN" covers approximately 20% greater area on a smooth surface than conventional gloss paints.

"AQUASHEEN" is applied easily and quickly with large distemper brushes, but can also be sprayed.

"AQUASHEEN" has no objectionable "paint" smell.

"AQUASHEEN" SPELLS OPPORTUNITY

This remarkable new paint offers a wonderful opportunity for obtaining a beautiful and durable result at a cost below that normally expected for a finish of comparable quality.

"AQUASHEEN" is

1. lower in price than conventional gloss paints,
2. gives greater coverage,
3. is more rapidly applied.

"Aquasheen" is for interior use only.

Complies with the Factories Acts, whereby 7 years exemption from re-painting may be claimed.

Full details from the sole manufacturers

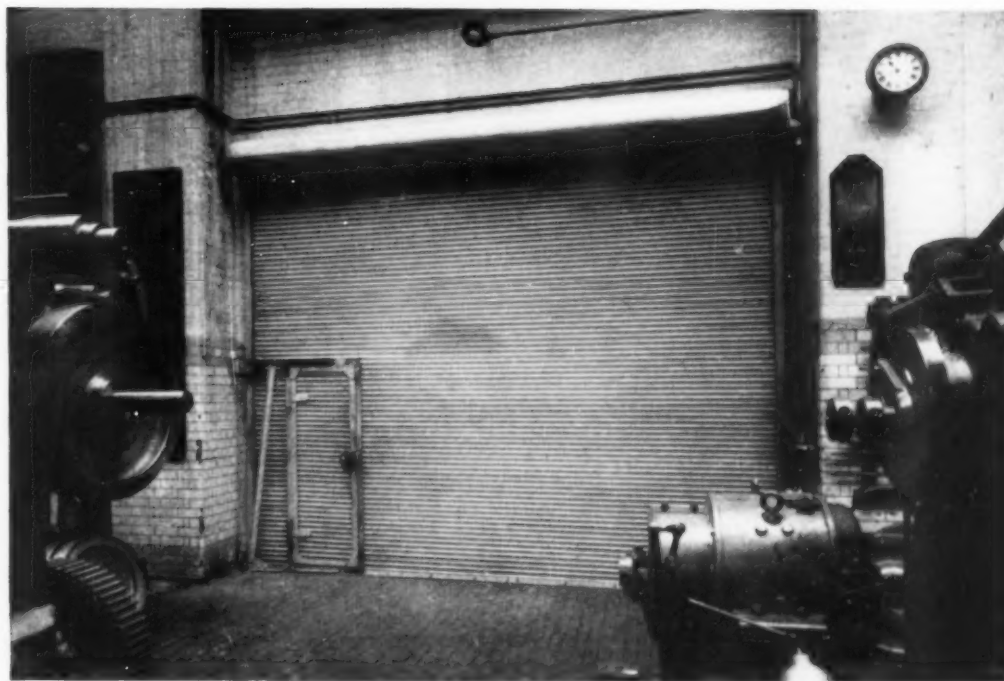


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KINNEAR SHUTTERS



Messrs. Taylor & Challen, Ltd., Constitution Hill, Birmingham.

This Kinnear Shutter, on an opening 12' 0" high by 15' 0" wide, was supplied and erected by us in 1906; and in 1939 Messrs. Taylor & Challen found it to be in such good condition that they considered it worth while to clean and repaint it, thus ensuring that it will give them a continuance of this good service for many more years to come.

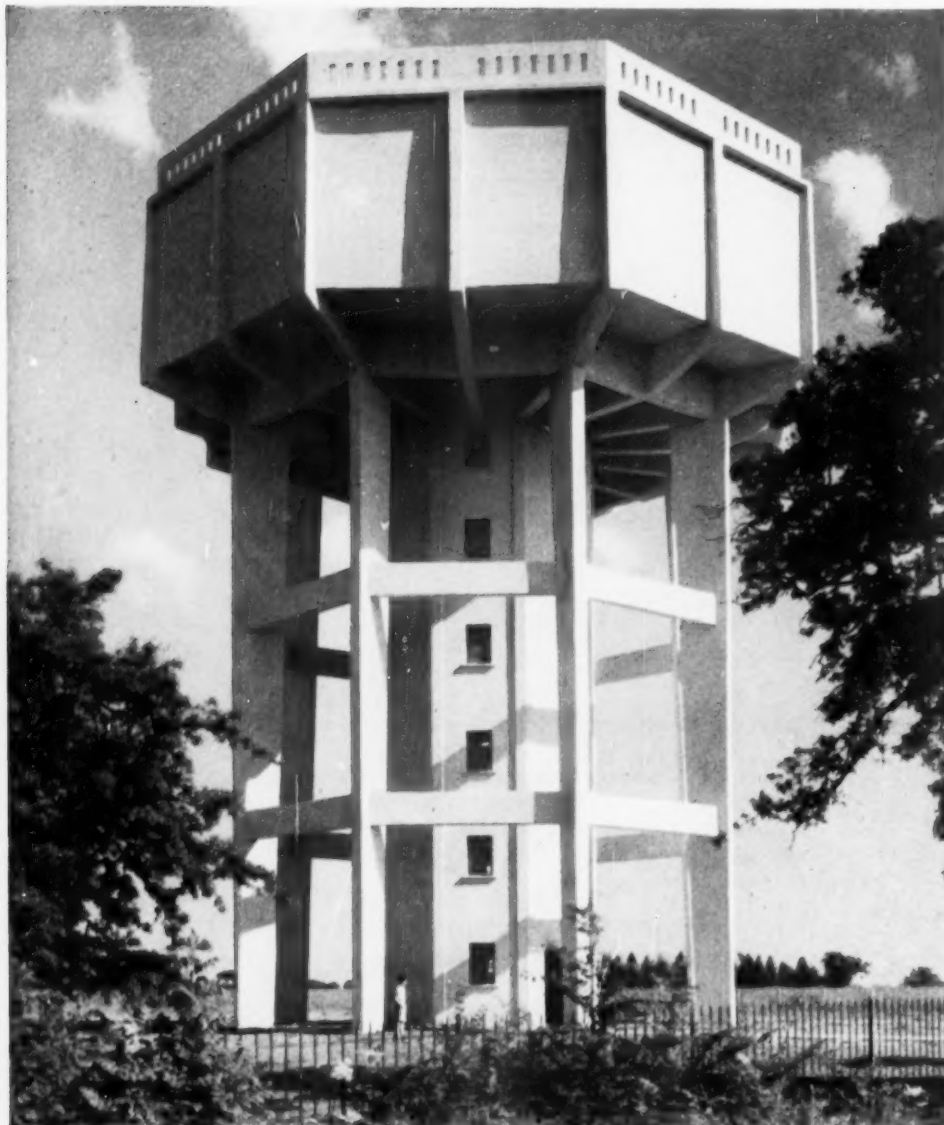
A few days ago our Birmingham Representative was informed by Messrs. Taylor & Challen that the Shutter is still giving excellent service—after 48 years.

It will be noted that this Shutter is fitted with one of our Hinged Frame Type Wicket Doors, and the design of the latter indicates its age; the modern Kinnear Wicket Door is both easier and quicker to operate than its predecessor.

Sole Manufacturers:

ARTHUR L. GIBSON & Co., LTD.

Twickenham, Middlesex



Reinforced Concrete Water Tower
at Stowlingtoft for Thingoe
and Thedwastre R.D.C.,
Consulting Engineers: Messrs.
Lemon & Blizard.
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& Partners, Ltd.

This 250,000 gallon water tower in reinforced concrete is a notable example of the right materials being used in the right design for the job.



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SITUATED on the South coast of Dorset, Weymouth combines the role of Naval base with that of holiday resort. As can be seen from the above illustration, the festive atmosphere has surely been captured in the brightly decorated Pier Bandstand. But this is summer—the sea is calm and the air is warm. What of the winter when deck chairs and sandcastles disappear in deference to gales and squalls? That, of course, is another picture, but it is all part of the life story of the Pier. For these buildings have been decorated with Cementone No. 9 Waterproof Stoneface Composition, which gives all-the-year-round protection.

BESIDES imparting a bright finish to the work, Cementone No. 9 forms a stonelike durable surface, which is impervious to rain and salt spray. Being alkali-resistant this product can be applied to concrete, asbestos cement and most types of brick surfaces; and it is ideal to use where weather resistance is an important consideration.

THE Cementone Handbook gives full particulars of Cementone No. 9 together with details of many other products, specially manufactured to solve most colouring, hardening and waterproofing problems. Your copy of the Handbook is available, free, on request.

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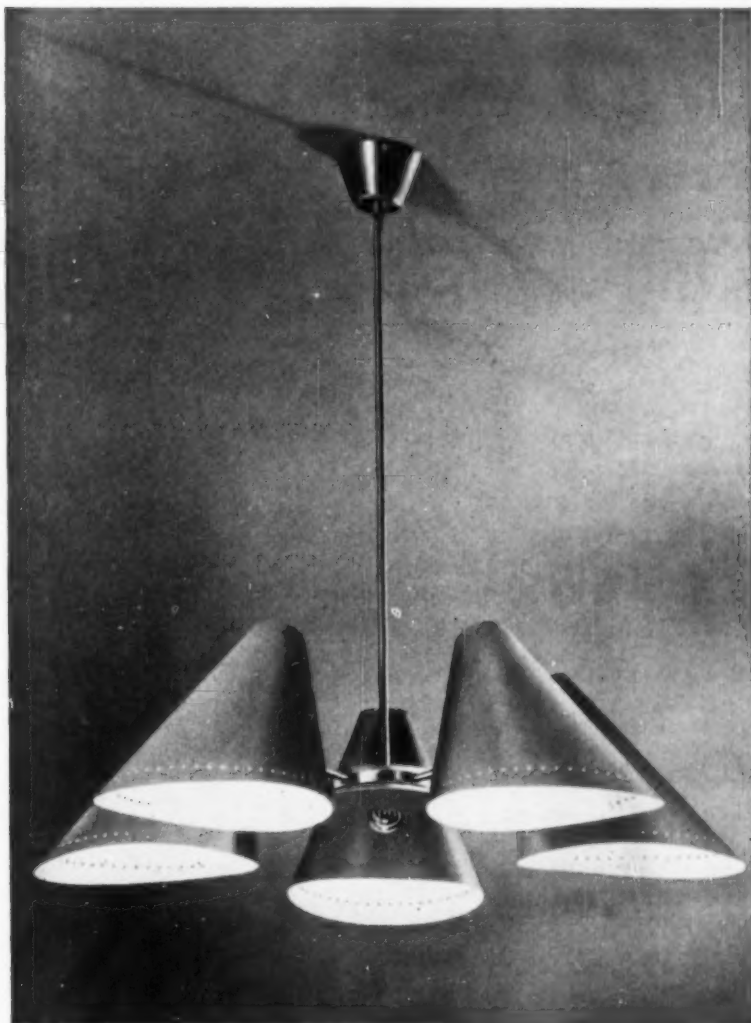
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Newcastle : NORTHUMBRIA HOUSE, PORTLAND TERRACE, 2

in 'House & Garden' colours



F34041. Satin brass, with reflectors in gay 'House & Garden' colours; dove grey or mustard. Arranged for five 100 W. Osram lamps. Overall spread 31", Overall length 30".

F34040. As above, but arranged for three 100 W. Osram lamps. Overall spread 27", Overall length 30".

The reflectors are reversible, and may be used for upward or downward lighting.



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We

hold our

horses!

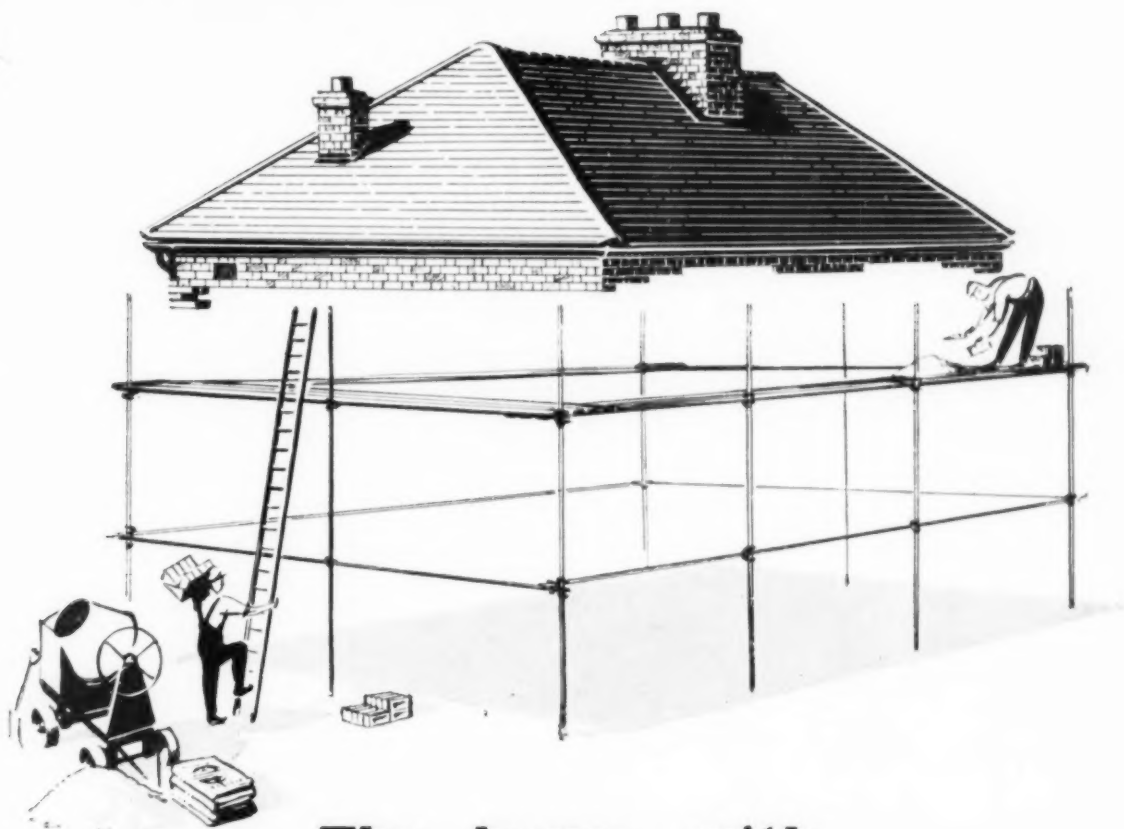


We held them for 6 months or more. We held them at the price of not being first in the field with plastic emulsion paint. But we weren't just sitting back. We were *grooming* our dark horse, giving it a preliminary canter over the Course, putting it through its paces, checking its stamina and performance, until we *knew* we had a winner. So that when PAMMASTIC put in an appearance, it went way out in front — to lead the field as Blundell products have done for nearly a Century and a half.

As the hand that wields the brush rules the Estimate, Blundell's PAMMASTIC is a particularly timely contribution. This plastic emulsion coating cuts labour costs because it . . . requires no primer or undercoat . . . is as quick and easy to apply as distemper . . . dries in under two hours—enabling the second coat to be applied without delay . . . takes only two coats to cover the most contrasting surfaces. What's more; Pamnastic cuts labour maintenance costs too, for it lasts indefinitely. For a brilliant enamel or soft eggshell enamel finish, the recommended complementaries; to Pamnastic are Blundell's Pammel and Pammulette.

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The house with the roof built first

Impossible of course The house we are thinking of was built in the more usual way from the foundations upwards, and *built to a price*. One of the builder's *first* actions was to order sufficient NURALITE for all the flashings and weatherings, saving £15 from the start.

NURALITE is the new non-metallic, flexible sheeting with which flat roofs, guttering, ridging,

flashing, etc., can be made at a fraction of the cost of sheet metal.

Note these points:—Composed of Asbestos and Bitumen—permanently weatherproof—easily cut with tinsmiths' shears—rigid when cold but mouldable to any shape after gently warming with a blowlamp—sheets can be welded to give a strong, impermeable joint—**fire resistant qualities satisfy the requirements of Model Bye Law 49.**

Nuralite

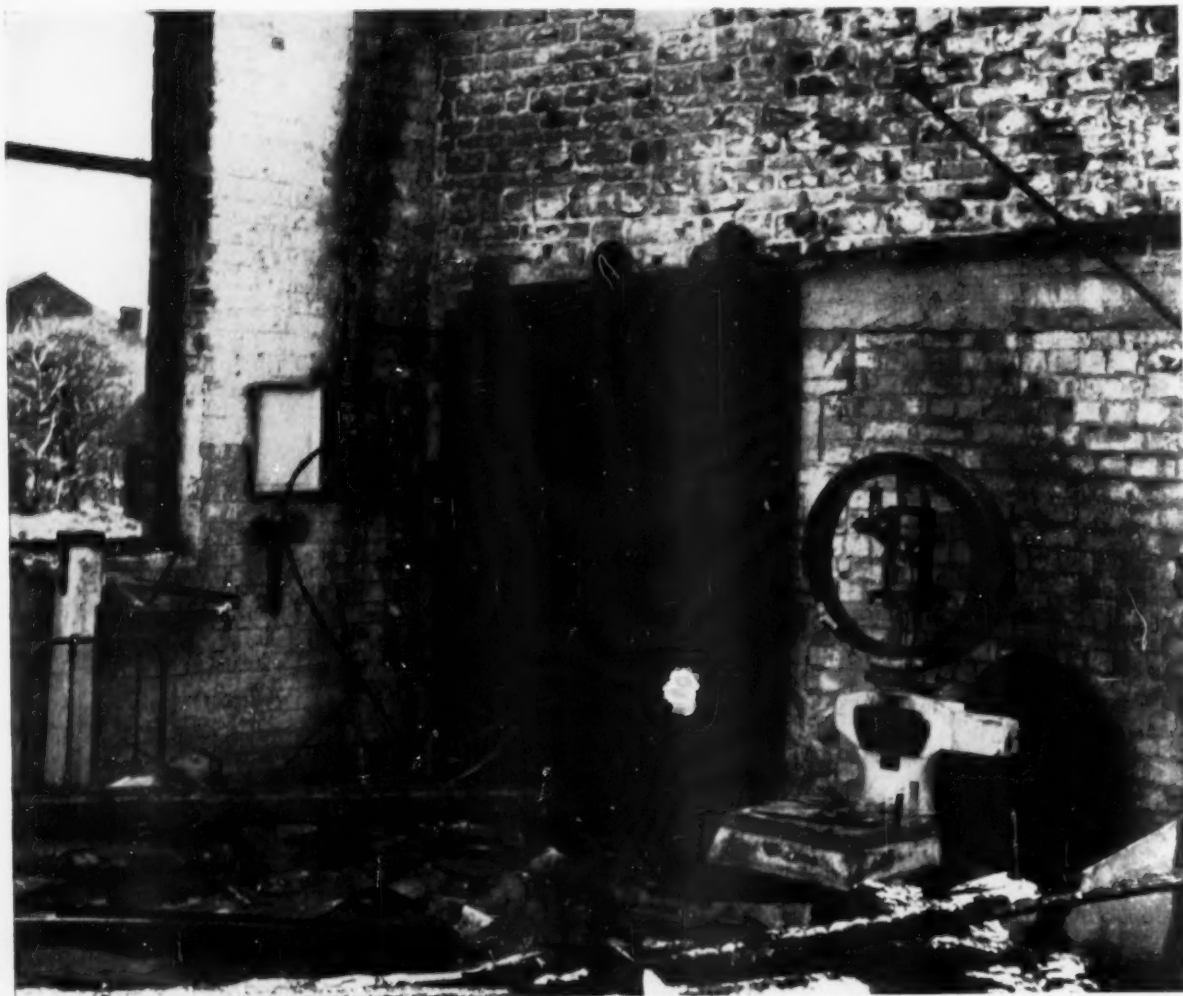
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SUPERSEDES ROOFING METALS



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TAS/NL17



412

Foresight and Fire

When fire broke out in a blanket weaving mill it spread so rapidly that the employees—according to eye witness accounts—had to run for their lives! But the Mather & Platt Automatic Sliding Armoured Door shown above did good service in preventing the spread of fire from the Mule Shed and Store to the adjoining Weaving Shed.

Armoured Fire Doors
by

MATHER & PLATT LTD. • PARK WORKS • MANCHESTER 10



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PATENT GLAZING

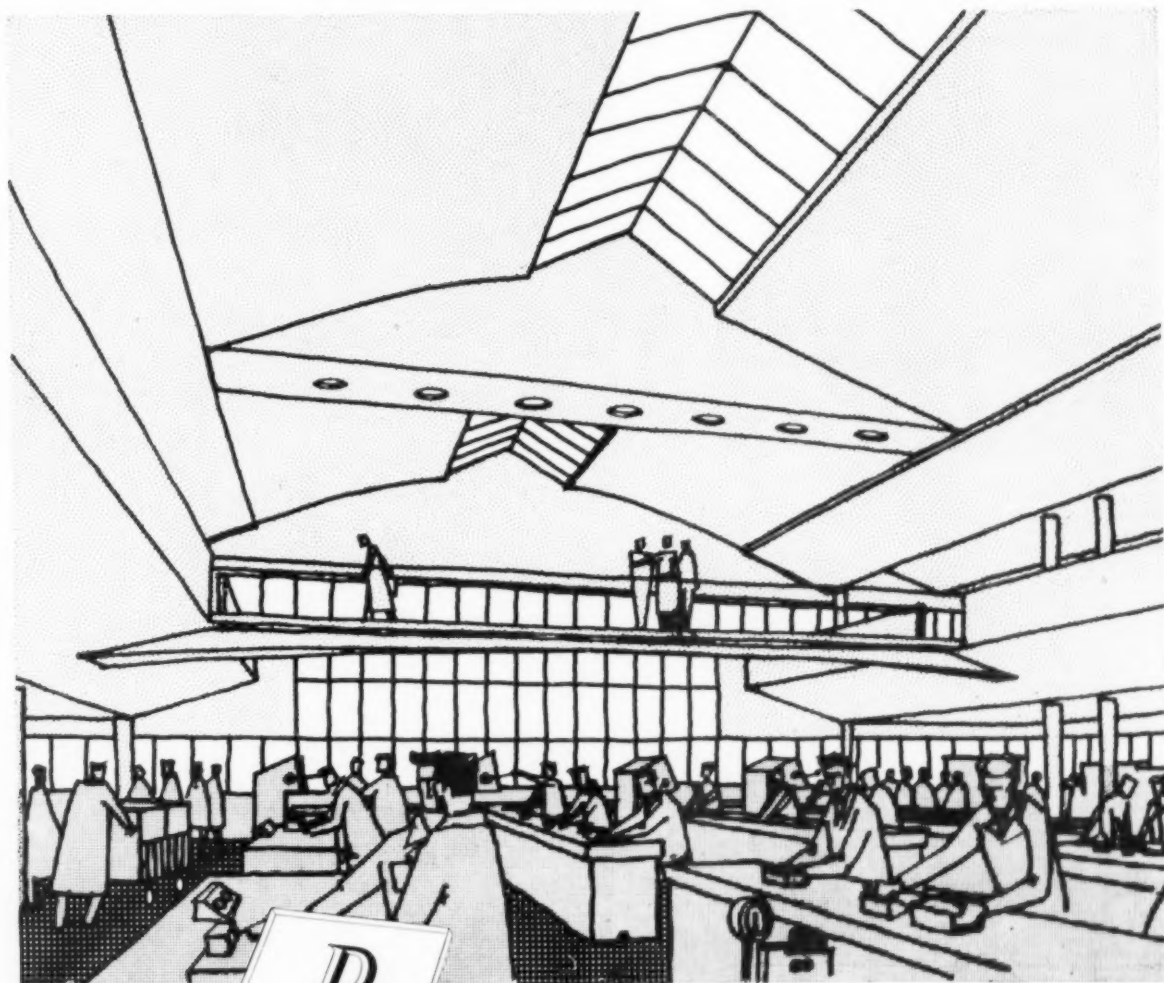
3. FACTORY INTERIOR

The importance of daylighting in a modern factory is now widely appreciated and new forms of construction are being adopted which give bigger unobstructed open space and allow greater flexibility of internal planning. One of the important developments in this connection is the use of shell concrete. The design illustrated shows that patent glazing can be used in conjunction with the new building techniques to provide a high level of daylighting, using both roof glazing and side wall glazing.

In this example, which illustrates one bay of a factory unit, the roof glazing consists of patent glazing bars with wired glass in fixed lights. Double glazing could be employed if additional insulation is required. The side wall glazing consists of patent glazing bars glazed with $\frac{1}{4}$ " glass with opening lights in suitable positions, operated by hand controlled gear.

ISSUED BY THE PATENT GLAZING CONFERENCE

SPECIFICATIONS



From a design by Edward D. Mills, F.R.I.B.A.



*For all facts about patent glazing, write to
the Information Bureau,
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- ① Low-cost dry construction
- ② Pre-cut to size to save time on site and avoid cutting to waste
- ③ Light weight is combined with great strength and rigidity
- ④ Wall framing is required at 4 ft. centres only; roof supports required at 4 ft. centres (pitched) and at 2 ft. centres (flat)
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8 reasons why

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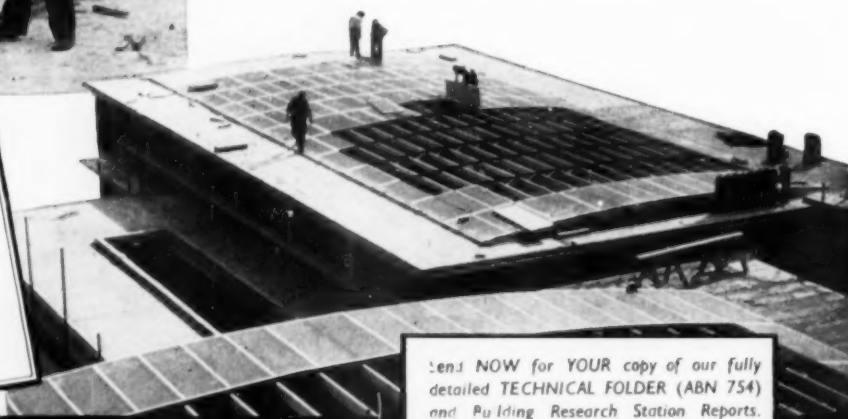
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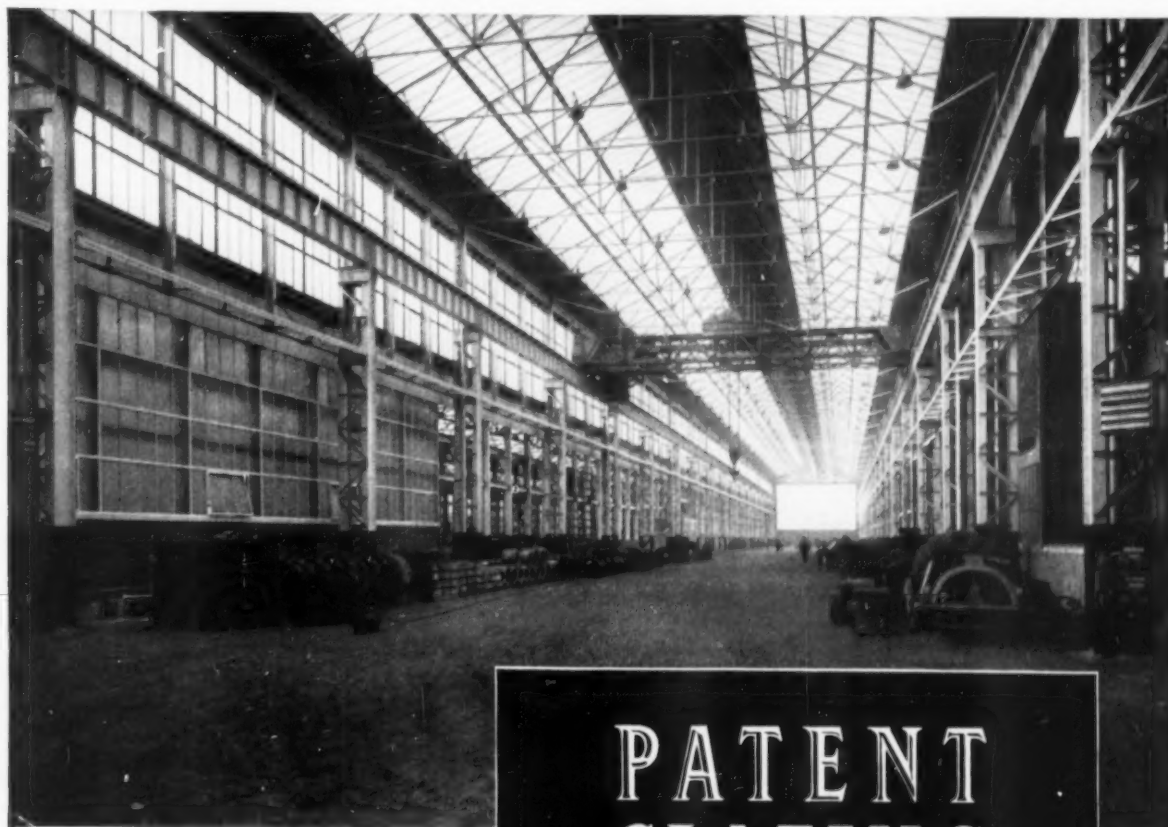
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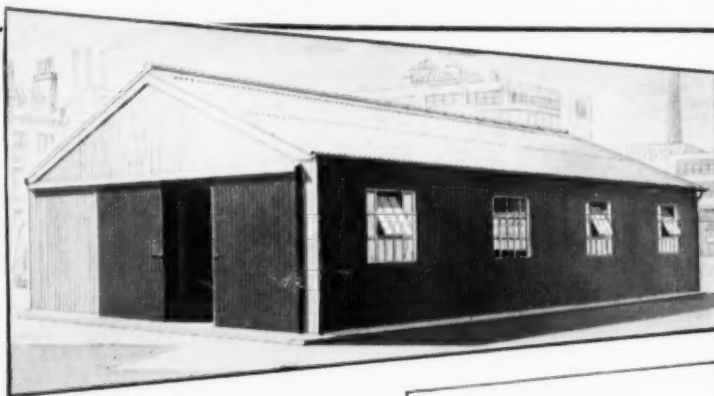
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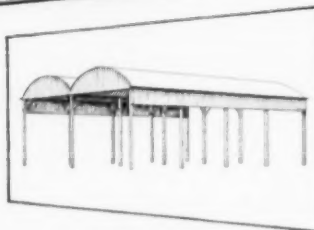
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hardboard

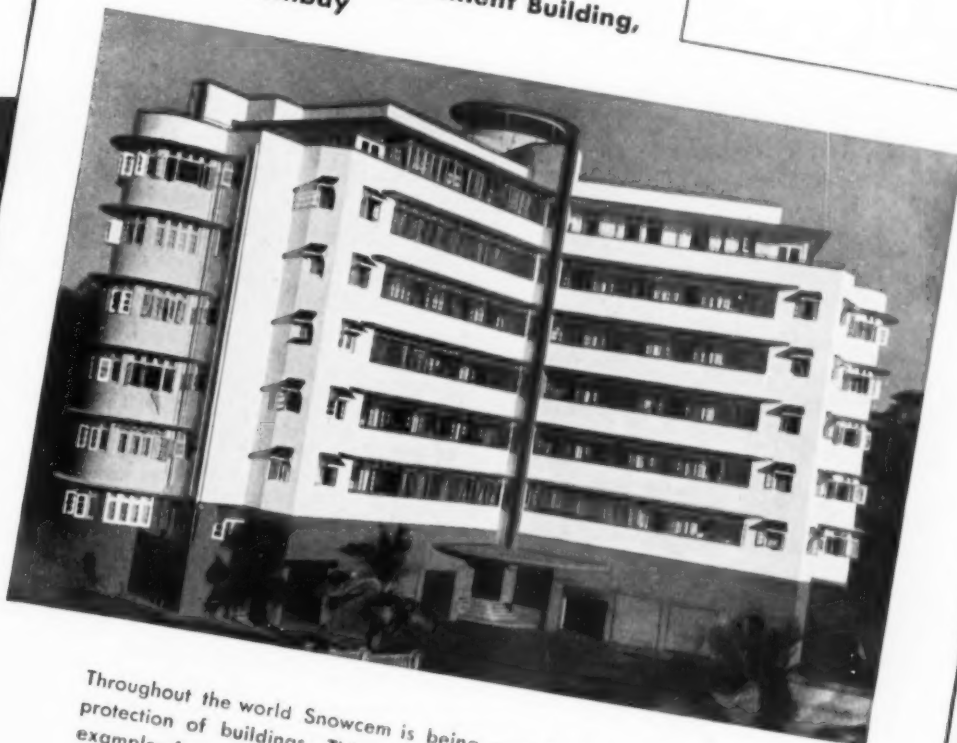
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"CASTEX" will flameproof up to standard required by Local Councils.

FROM THE SNOWCEM FILE:—

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Bombay



Throughout the world Snowcem is being used for the decoration and protection of buildings. This illustration is one of the many recent examples from India.

SNOWCEM is easily applied to concrete, cement rendering or suitable brickwork by brush or spray. Available in seven colours: white, cream, deep cream, buff, pink, silver-grey and pale green.

SNOWCEM

WATERPROOF CEMENT PAINT



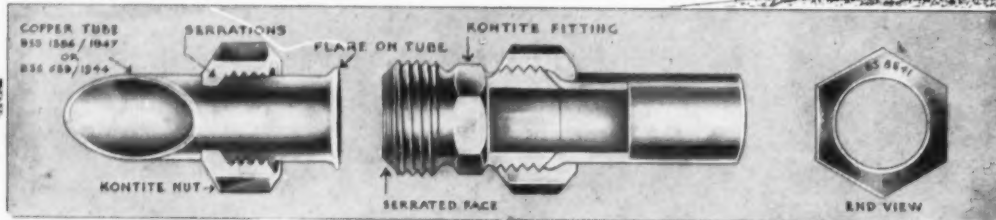
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This aim at simplifying colour ranges

provides a fixed base from which colour schemes can be built, and Architects are invited to visit Dockers' Berners Street Showroom in London where this range can be seen in action.

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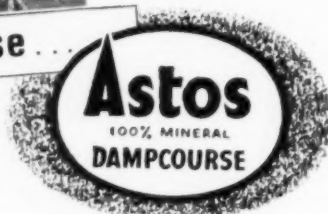
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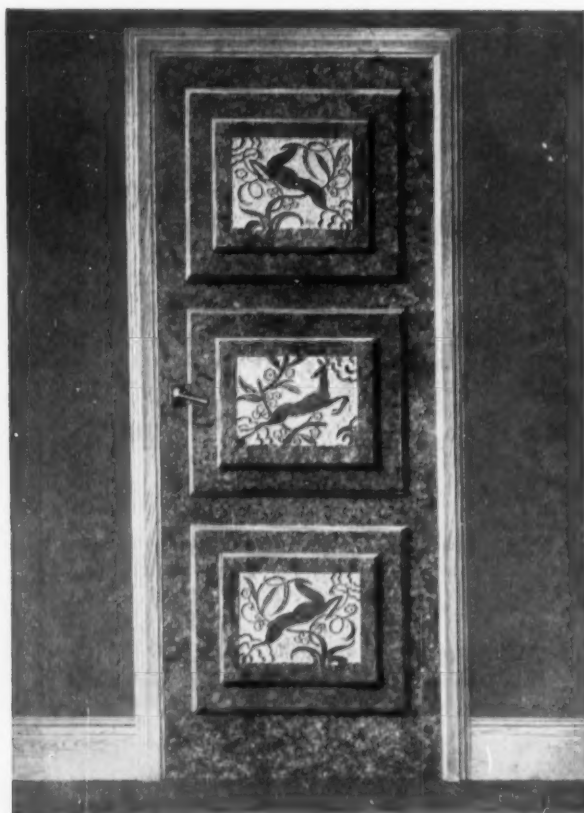
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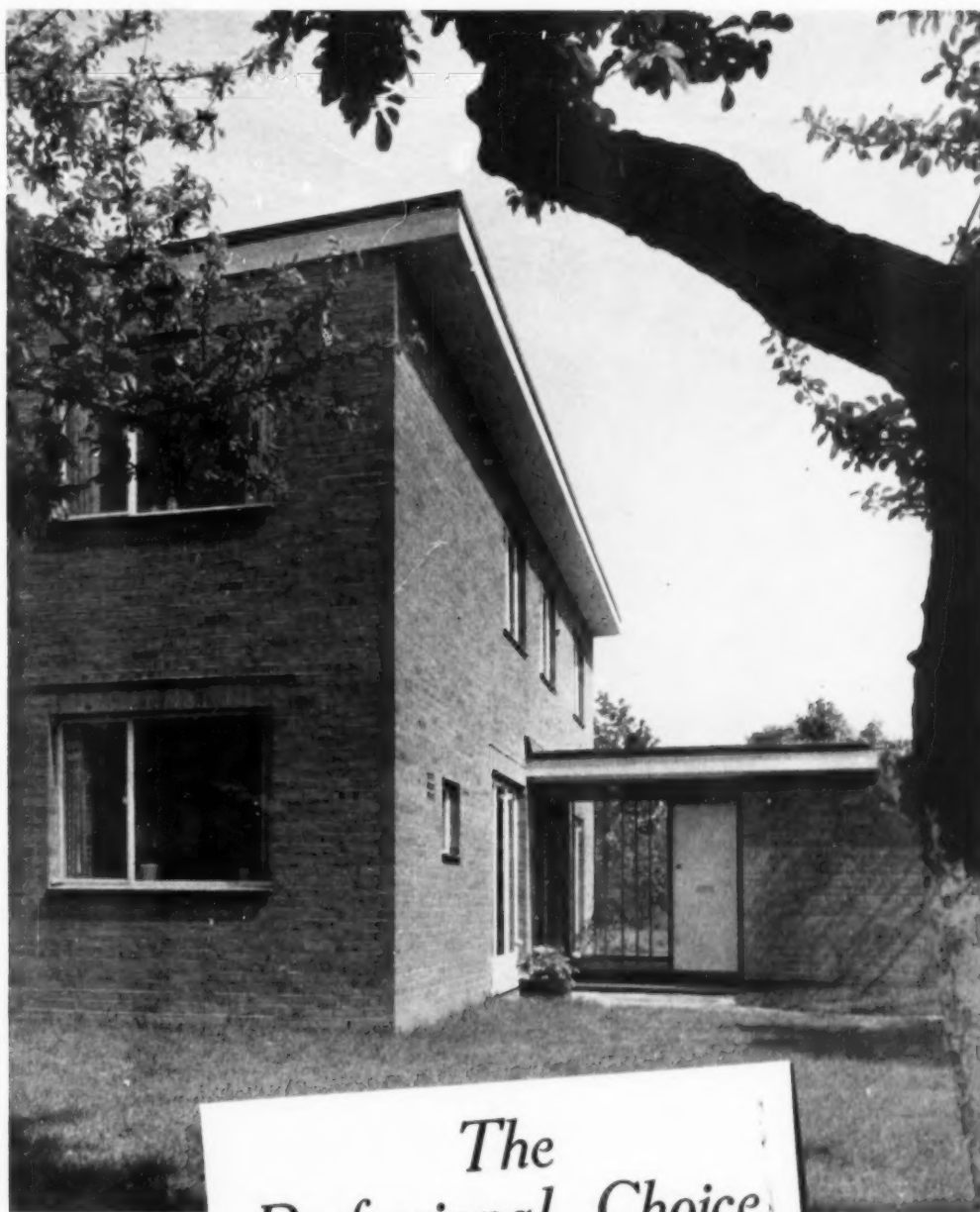
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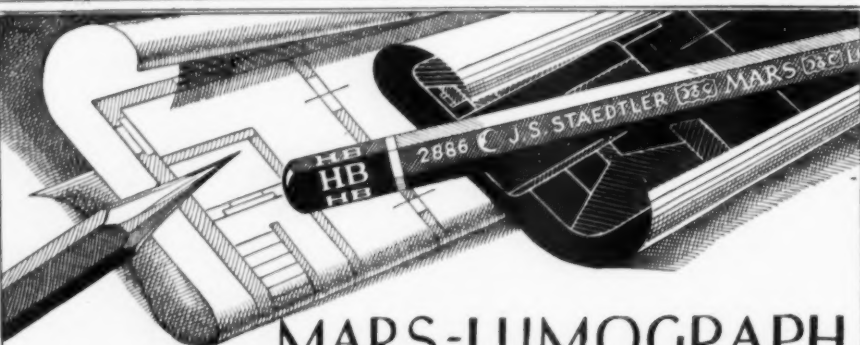
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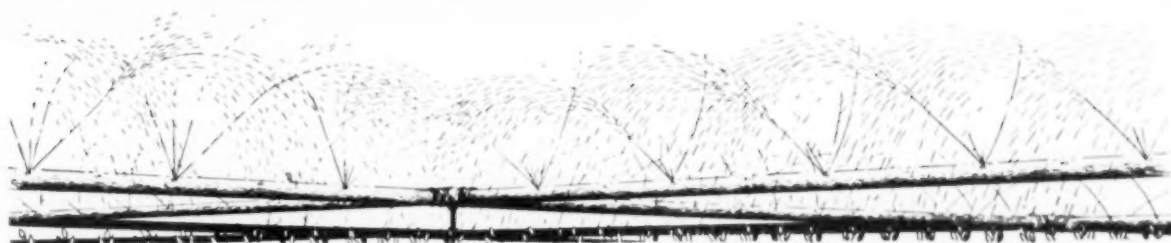
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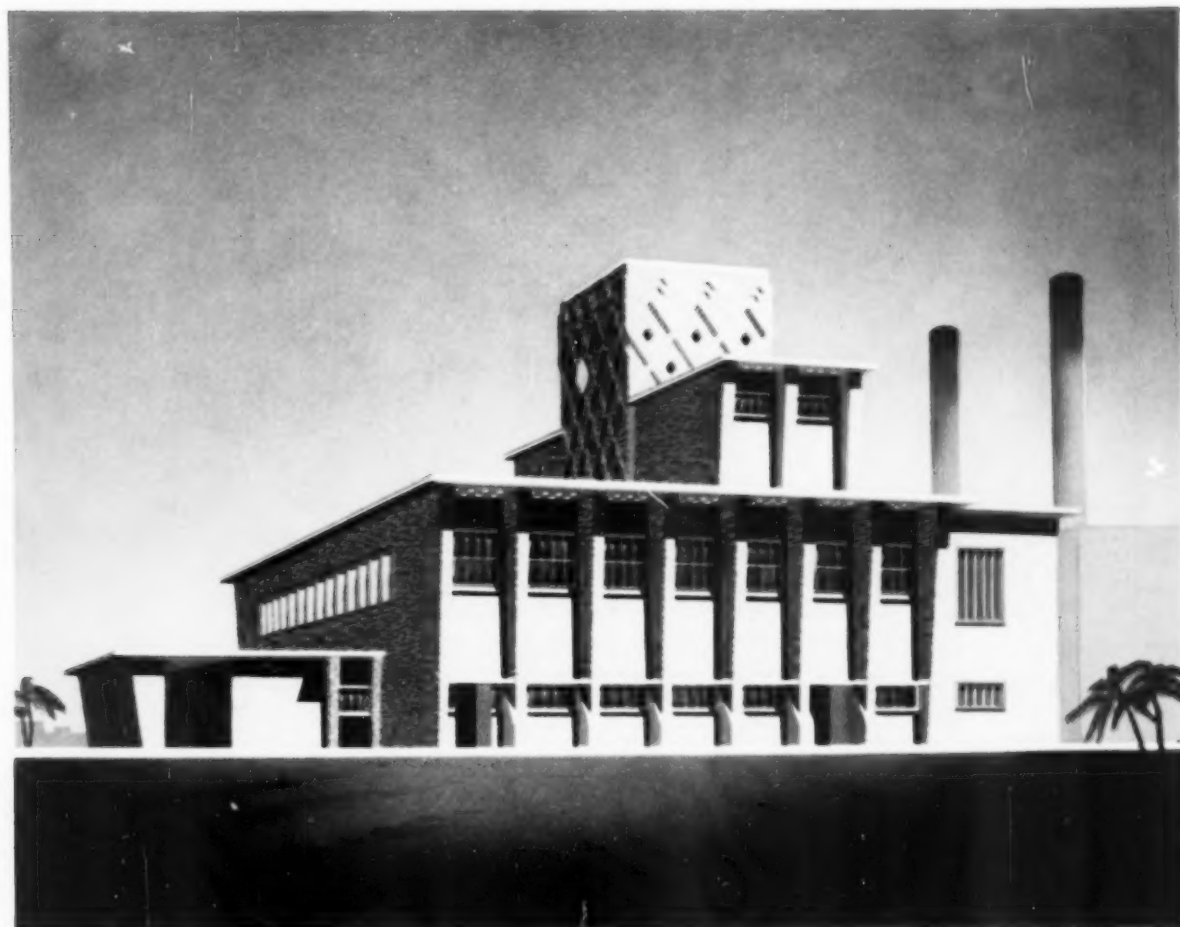
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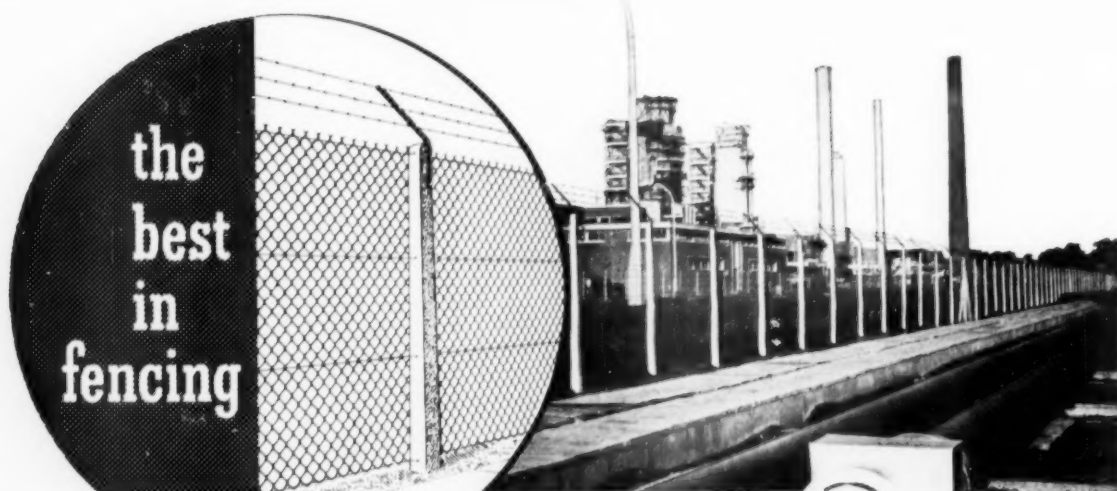
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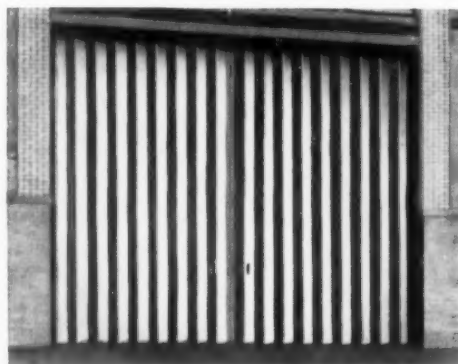
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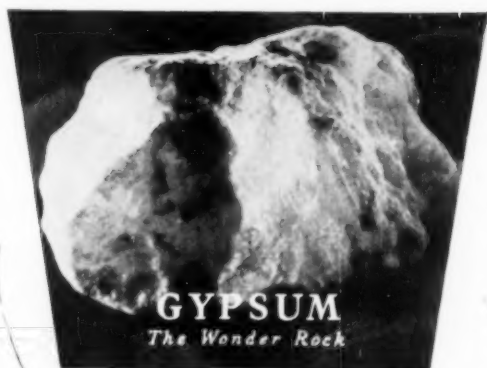


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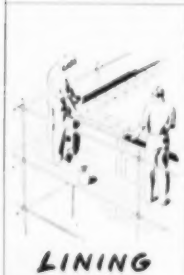
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THE STATUS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ARCHITECT

THE following paragraph is taken from the statement issued by the Association of Building Technicians which appeared in our issue of June 17, 1954.

"A problem arises with many local authorities because the position of the architect has not been made a statutory appointment as is the case of the Clerk, the Engineer and the Medical Officer. There should be a statutory obligation on local authorities to place architects in full responsibility for all architectural work."

We presume the A.B.T. have in mind the Local Government Act, 1933, where, in Part IV which deals with the appointment of officers, it states: "Every County Council *shall* appoint a fit person to be Clerk." Similar provision is made for a County Treasurer, a Medical Officer and a County Surveyor. No mention is made of any other technical officer but a general provision is made for the appointment of other officers by the following section: "Every County Council shall appoint such other officers as the Council think necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Council."

In the case of boroughs and urban districts, it is obligatory on them to appoint a Clerk, Treasurer, Surveyor, Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector, and such other officers as the Council think necessary. Rural districts must do the same except they need not appoint a Surveyor.

Whilst we fully appreciate the point put forward by the A.B.T. and the reasons which prompted the statement, we feel that as it would need an Act of Parliament, it would be wise to consider not only the position of the architect but all technical officers. Unless, therefore, agreement to the amendment to the present Act was sought from the appropriate technical institutes in addition to the R.I.B.A., and all went forward with a united front, opposition would no doubt be forthcoming.

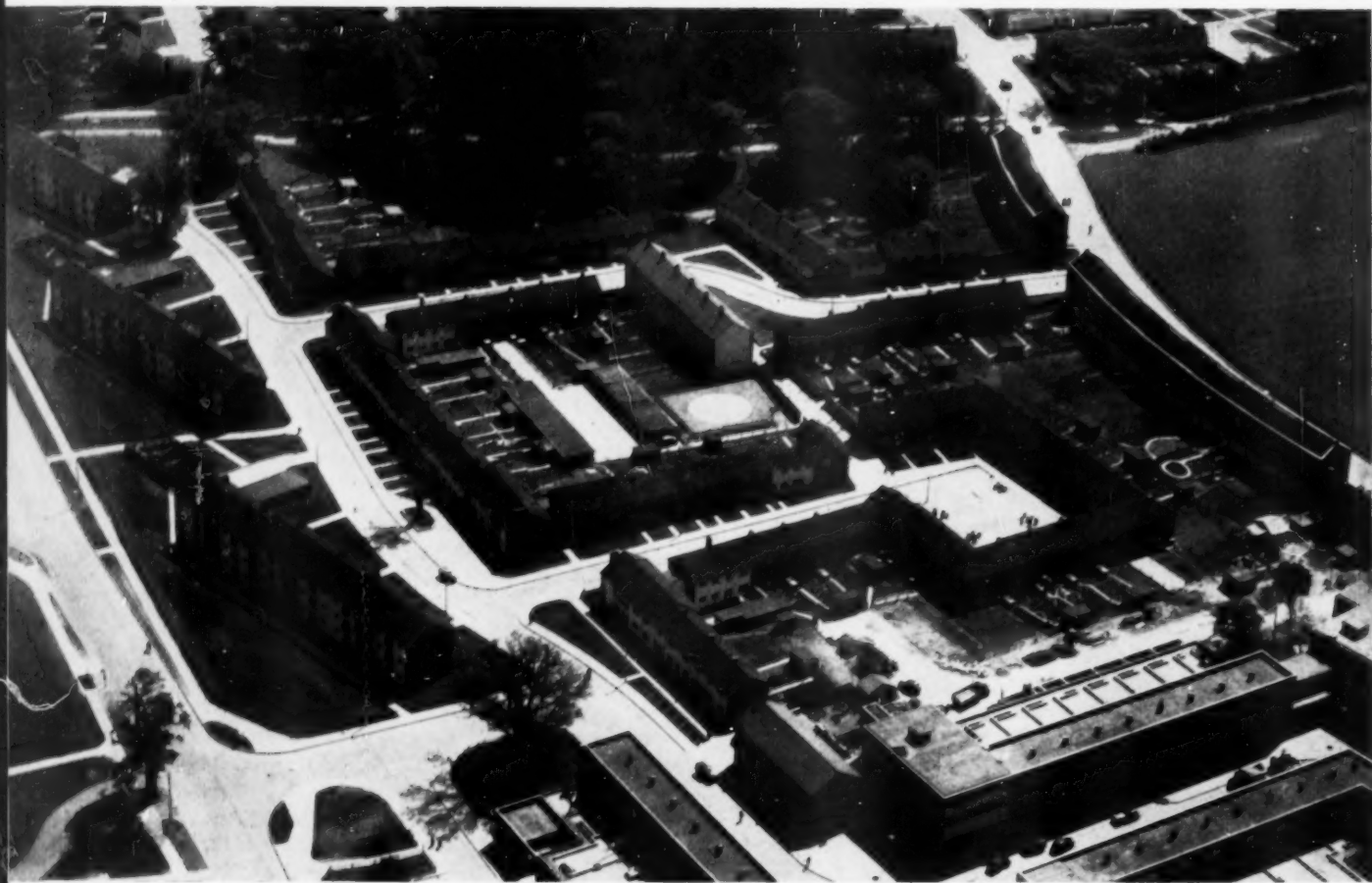
It might be argued that if it was compulsory by statute for authorities to engage a full-time architect, his appointment would have to be approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as is the case, with the respective Ministries, with the Medical Officer of Health, the Director of Education and the County Surveyor.

Whilst we appreciate many authorities feel that there is too much power already in the hands of officials at Whitehall, we consider that the architect would be in the position of holding the scales between the interests of the authority and the wider ones of the country, which we feel would give him added status.

Would it be wise to seek the same provisions for non-County Boroughs, Urban and Rural District Councils? In these instances we are not looking at the position from the point of view of opposition (as the Surveyor usually acts as Engineer and the Planning Officer is a servant of the County Council), but from the point of view of the good of the architectural profession.

If it became law that these authorities had to appoint an architect, two courses would be open to them. The appointment could, we presume, be part-time on a fixed salary or on a percentage basis. This would mean that one firm in the district would receive all the work of the authority. Alternatively, the authority would have to appoint a full-time official. In many cases the income from rates would be such that the authority would be obliged to advertise at a low salary and would, we feel, receive the services of an officer commensurate with the salary. The authority's architecture would suffer accordingly.

At the moment many of the wiser authorities place their work in the hands of private architects and in some cases share the work out amongst the architects in the district. This not only benefits



HOUSING MEDAL AWARD, 1954, EASTERN AREA

Orchard Croft, for Harlow Development Corporation. Architect: Frederick Gibberd, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A. Builder: Kirk & Kirk Ltd., Putney.

Photoflight

the profession but, we feel, benefits the district concerned.

We agree wholeheartedly with the A.B.T. in its statement that "architects should be responsible for architecture just as engineers are responsible for engineering." A study of appointments vacant reveals that even today a considerable number are for architectural assistants on the staff of the Borough Engineer.

Can this be rectified by statute or would it be better to try persuasion? If the authority could be persuaded it was in their interest to appoint an architect this would lead, we feel, to a better state of affairs than if it was imposed by statute from above.

The alternative would be for the R.I.B.A. to inaugurate a system on similar lines to the B.M.A. In their case, however, the system is in connection both with the salary offered and the conditions of service. If the salary is below the grade for the position, an Important Notice is issued in the B.M.A. Journal and doctors are not expected to apply. If they do, they may be expelled from the B.M.A.

A list should be compiled by the R.I.B.A. of local authorities whose architectural work is carried out under the Borough Surveyor or Engineer. Members should be advised not to apply for these appointments. Unless a penalty could be imposed it might be argued that this might not have the effect desired but we feel it would deter many who had the interest of the status of architects at heart from offering their services to such authorities.

The B.M.A. has been successful in its endeavours in this respect, so why not the R.I.B.A.?

It might be contended by the R.I.B.A. that the question of where and under whom a member offered his services was not a matter upon which it should exercise any control.

In this connection we feel we cannot do better than quote from the Historical Sketch which is to be found in the front of the R.I.B.A. Kalendar.

"More than 11,500 out of the 17,500 architects on the National Register are corporate members of the R.I.B.A. It is clear from these figures that the R.I.B.A. exercises a powerful influence in the

profession. This influence is used, and will continue to be used, to effect further improvements in the training of architects, in their status, in their capacity to serve the public and in the recognition which such services receive."

We wish to emphasize the words: "This influence is used, and will continue to be used, to effect further improvements . . . in their status."

We look forward to a pronouncement from the R.I.B.A. on what steps are being taken to improve the status of the architect in the employment of those local authorities who still feel that the architect should be subservient to the Borough Engineer.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

TROPICAL ARCHITECTURE AT THE A.A.

The first six-month course in Tropical Architecture starts at the Architectural Association on October 1. The prospectus is available now. The A.A. is an extraordinary place, and is usually in some sort of crisis, and as the only truly independent School of Architecture in the country finance is an increasing worry. From time to time heady young members curse the place for being moribund and unprogressive, and complain of the lack of interest shown in the Association's affairs by the majority of the membership. There may sometimes be some justification for these charges but the fact remains that the A.A. is still producing and putting into practice new ideas. The successful series of post-graduate Symposia, the design tuition for students unable to attend schools of architecture and the department of Tropical Architecture are three examples. They may not seem very large in stature in the wide landscape of the development of world architecture but they are the green shoots which show that the plant is alive.

I see no reason why the Department of Tropical Architecture should not become an important part of the A.A.'s activities. Judging by the prospectus, it has been

well planned and much of the credit for this must go to the Principal of the school, Michael Patrick, who is one of our most energetic and forthright architectural educationalists. The head of the new department is to be Maxwell Fry, who has as wide a knowledge of the needs of tropical architecture as anyone. He will be assisted by a number of distinguished architects and engineers. The course is intended primarily for post-graduate students from this country who wish to gain knowledge of tropical building. It will, however, also provide facilities for qualified architects from the tropical countries to add to their specialized technical knowledge. In view of the increasing opportunities for British architects in the hot countries, the course should be popular.

WATER

It is said that the water industry in this country is very inefficient. It seems to me to depend on how you judge efficiency. On the few occasions in my life when water has failed to flow at my command from a tap or faucet (remember the export trade) it has almost invariably been due either to my own inefficiency or to enemy action. I realize that I may be lucky and that in some country districts where subscribers have what might be called a "party line" for their water supply they have to take it in turns to use the taps. General inefficiency only becomes apparent to the Man in the Street in the rare times of drought when he sees plastered everywhere stern conjurations to use less water. Having spent the preceding nine months wearing a macintosh, splashing through puddles, up to his middle rescuing stranded cattle from flooded fields and pumping out his cellar with the help of the local fire brigade, he not unnaturally wonders what the water boys were thinking of in the time of plenty. He may even wonder why the Socialist government did not nationalize the industry. Apparently something was done in 1944 to begin a survey of the national water supply, but this was stopped as an economy measure in 1952. Work is now to be resumed and the M.o.H.L.G. is urging water companies—or undertakings as they are called—to get together and, as it were, pool their resources. A White Paper issued at the time



HOUSING MEDAL AWARD, 1954. SOUTH-WESTERN AREA
Cannington for Bridgwater R.D.C. Architect: R. G. Nicholls, F.R.I.B.A. Builder: H. W. Pollard & Sons Ltd., Bridgwater.

of the original plan mentioned the large number of such undertakings in the country as a source of weakness. It advised regrouping and the next ten years saw the total number reduced by 200 to about 1,000. The object of the present exercise is to provide undertakings which are large enough and financially strong enough to provide a properly supervised and efficient water supply.

P.R.O. FOR THE CITY?

According to a City Press report there has been criticism in the Common Council of the City of London on the City's public relations. A member moved that the Special Committee, the Corporation's policy committee, should consider the adequacy of the Corporation's public relations services. The member praised the work of the Information Office but did not think that it filled the bill in dealing with such criticisms as those contained in the Royal Fine Art Commission's remarks about post-war City architecture. The seconder of the motion proposed that "some competent and able officer" should be appointed to reply to such criticisms. The motion was carried. Dear, dear, sirs! You will need something more than a competent and able officer to explain away some of the development blots which are daily appearing in your domain.

DOVER FLATS

I hear a rumour that the flats are to proceed much in accordance with the original design. Indeed, I should have been surprised if any of the major criticisms could have been met without starting the design again. It is suggested that the way through between the straight block and the curved block should be called the Grand Kenyon.

NEW STATION AT GRAYS

At the R.I.B.A. exhibition on Transport some time ago we saw drawings of projected stations and other buildings for British Railways. We have not seen very much since. Grays, Essex, has however had half its station rebuilt and the new building is nearly complete. It would be unkind

to describe it until it is ready, but in the perhaps unlikely event of your passing through Grays, which might happen if you got lost on the way to Tilbury, the station is already worth looking at. I recently mentioned that the B.R. architect's department had designed a new sleeping-car. I hear that a prototype has been completed somewhere in the Midlands but for some reason the whole thing is being kept a secret. Is it then so good that the engineers are afraid to show what the architects can do?

THE GEORGIAN GROUP

The Group's report for 1953 has just been published. I am glad to see that membership continues to increase. The Group last year had a surplus of £372 on a total income of £2,480. It says a great deal for the work of the Group that despite its very small income its prestige is so high. Among the many interesting things mentioned in the report there is reference to an important case in Bath which not only affects the future of all buildings of architectural and historical interest in private hands but also affects their owners. Briefly, the problem is this. The owners of No. 77 Great Pulteney Street, Bath, took down the pediment which crowned its façade because it was in a dangerous condition. They proposed to replace it with a plain parapet wall as the cost of a new pediment would be between £700 and £800. Great Pulteney Street, designed by Robert Adam, is perhaps the finest surviving street of its type in the country. The building is scheduled and listed and the Bath Council refused to permit the proposed substitution. The owners appealed to the Minister and a public enquiry was held last December. The result is apparently not yet known. The difficulties of the case are obvious. Architecturally remarkable buildings must be maintained not only in a good state of repair but with all their architectural features intact. This may cause considerable hardship and the Georgian Group suggests that what is wanted is something like the French scheme for helping the owners of *monuments classés* with their maintenance from public funds.

ABNER

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Cut in Housing Subsidies

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has announced a cut in housing subsidies by over 17 per cent effective from April 1, 1955, after which date the total subsidy on each standard house will fall from £35 12s to £29 8s. Full particulars on the range of subsidies are given in a White Paper, "Report Under Section 16 of the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946." H.M.S.O., price 4d.

Housing subsidies are now approaching an annual total of £100m, increasing at the rate of about £10m a year. The proposed cuts will reduce this rate of increase by about £1m a year. In making his decision Mr. Macmillan has taken into consideration certain changes since the Government subsidy was raised when he took office from

£16 10s to £26 14s a year for a standard house (the local authority subsidy was raised at the same time from £5 10s to £8 18s), i.e., the recent reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in the rate of interest on loans from the Public Works Loan Board which took effect on June 4;* the further economies in the layout of housing estates recommended in "Houses, 1953," and the increase in the average earnings.

The Chairman of the Metropolitan Boroughs Joint Standing Committee has stated that "the reduction in the standard subsidy means that on the average an extra 2s 6d a week has to be found from somewhere. It will be for the local authorities to decide whether this will come from rates or rent."

* Interest is now $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for loans of not more than 5 years; $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent for 5-15 years; $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent over 15 years.

Part-time Official Appointments

The following statement has been received from the Secretary, R.I.B.A. The attention of the Royal Institute has been drawn to an instance in which a local authority has advertised an appointment for an architect in private practice to act as architect to the local authority for all purposes for a fixed annual remuneration, irrespective of the amount of work to be undertaken, all of which the architect would be required to do in his own office. Such a contract is undesirable, since it involves the architect in carrying out work without any relation to the R.I.B.A. Scale of Professional Charges, and circumstances may well arise in which the architect might render himself liable to disciplinary action for failing to uphold the Scale.

In considering the offer of any such appointments, members in private practice should be careful to see that the scale of remuneration is based on a fixed annual consultant's retaining fee, plus the appropriate scale fees for any work he may be required to carry out.

General Foremen: N.F.B.T.E. Statement

The Council of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers has approved a series of Basic Principles of Employment for General Foremen in the Building Industry which is being brought to the attention of all members.

The Federation has always been concerned to foster and maintain the highest standard of foremanship in the Building Industry and has approached this matter upon the assumption that the general foreman must be recognized as an essential part of the management side of the Building Industry.

Much progress has already been made in the establishment of recognized courses in general foremanship studies and the introduction of the Basic Principles of Employment is considered appropriate in the light of current trends in the industry.

The functions of a general foreman may be described generally as the detailed organization and supervision of work together with the control of labour on building sites; but as the general foreman is part of management the exact scope and extent of his duties and responsibilities must depend in large measure upon the size and type of work undertaken by the firm by which he is employed.

The Basic Principles, which have been accepted by representatives of recognized foremen's associations, are not in any way intended to constitute a collective agreement or to define the precise duties and responsibilities of foremen. To do so would be to ignore the widely differing types of work which general foremen are expected to cover and would be acceptable neither to employers nor to general foremen.

The Basic Principles recommend that general foremen should be appointed to the staff and should be given a letter of engagement or service agreement setting out the terms of their employment. They also refer to hours of employment, termination of engagement, sick pay, annual and public holidays, etc.

With regard to remuneration, it is considered to be inappropriate to establish any fixed basis for General Foremen. In fixing a salary, due regard should be paid to individual ability and the responsibility attaching to each appointment which will of necessity vary in relation to the nature of the work to be undertaken.

It is suggested also that general foremen should be encouraged to take advantage of all possible facilities for training and education to increase both their standard of foremanship and of technical knowledge, and that their

attention should be drawn to the advantages to be gained from membership of a recognized general foreman's association.

In announcing their approval of the Basic Principles the Council of the N.F.B.T.E. emphasize that they are not intended in any way to affect the more favourable conditions offered by many employers to experienced general foremen with a number of years' service, but the Council recommends their use as a guide when engaging general foremen.

Mural in Cecil Sharp House

Last week Sir Colin Anderson, Chairman of the Royal College of Art, formally unveiled a vast mural painting by Mr. Ivon Hitchens on a wall of the Main Hall of Cecil Sharp House, H.Q. of the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

The painting, which is 69ft long by 20ft deep, is not an enlarged version of Mr. Hitchens' usual easel paintings but a remarkably well-organized symphony in colour, which must rank as the most important mural painting in this country since the war. It should be seen by all architects who are interested in this form of decoration. In 1940 Cecil Sharp House suffered severe bomb damage, and in 1948 Mr. John Eastwick-Field was appointed architect in succession to the late Henry M. Fletcher. Mr. Hugh Pite is associated architect. It was decided not to replace the musicians' gallery, which had been destroyed, but at the architect's suggestion to commission a mural on a grand scale. The Director of the Society, Mr. Douglas Kennedy, had the courage to carry out the proposal and the taste to select Mr. Hitchens for the work.

The restoration of Cecil Sharp House, which was reopened in 1951, will have cost about £50,300, of which £22,550 qualifies as war damage. The Ministry of Education has made a grant of £10,500. Money for the mural is being raised by a separate appeal fund, towards which the Arts Council has given £850. The artist's fee was £2,000, and in addition there is the cost of hanging, which had to be worked out by specialists to stand the vibrations of dancing and fit in with the acoustic requirements.

Building Teachers' Conference

An excellent day was enjoyed by some 56 members of the Building Teachers' Conference, on Saturday, June 19, when a visit was made to Guildford and Charterhouse. The main party assembled for coffee at Abinger Hammer, and then proceeded to the Castle grounds at Guildford, and from there climbed to Pewley Down, where picnic lunches were enjoyed as the sun broke through. In the afternoon, a visit was made to Charterhouse School, where Mr. A. G. Buck, of the Building and Maintenance Staff, arranged a conducted tour of the school buildings. To watch the close of a school cricket

match on a golden summer evening, with the sounds of the chapel organ and the singing from the concluding service of a choral festival as a background sound to that of ball on bat is a memorable experience, and a salutary reminder of the priceless heritage of a tradition which we can never afford to lose.

CORRESPONDENCE

Aluminium Roofing

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—I was very interested to read your article on Aluminium Roofing in the issue dated June 17.

I do not, however, agree to the use of an underlay of bitumen felt under any form of metal roof. This can, from my experience, lead to serious trouble.

First the felt which is used must be neutral and should not contain any acids which are sometimes present in such felts. More important still, there is a strong tendency to adhere to such felts. Under the heat of the sun conducted through the metal the bitumen softens and the metal expands. When the cooling takes place, the metal will contract and bitumen will freeze and adhere to the metal before it has finished contracting, this will cause a tension in the metal. When this is repeated many times, failure will take place eventually by splitting. We have seen this happen on a number of occasions when laid on copper roofs. We think a similar effect would take place with aluminium.

The correct felt to use would be an inodorous felt which is resin bonded and does not contain bitumen. We have laid this over a period of 50 years or more and found it quite satisfactory.

I am, etc.,

J. MAGILLEY,
p.p. F. C. CLARKE,
Fredk. Braby & Co., Ltd.

Lake Shore Drive

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—All architects and laymen will support Mr. Cotton in his desire to improve architectural education, but judging from his two letters you have published it is difficult to foresee any success by his methods.

This correspondence is, however, headed "Lake Shore Drive" and in spite of (or because of?) the smoke-screen so competently laid by its defenders, any clear-thinking observer can see that this scheme, basically, is neither good architectural design, nor art.

Although we are both qualified architects, we hope, sir, always to remain students of our profession.

We are, etc.,

D. J. CANNON,
JOHN R. SPRATLEY.

COMING EVENT

London Master Builders' Association

July 15 at 2.15 p.m.—Half-yearly Meeting, at 81, New Cavendish Street, W.1.

Mr. Macmillan's Address to Local Authorities

Addressing the Annual Conference of the Urban District Councils Association at Eastbourne on June 25, Mr. Harold Macmillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, called upon local authorities to make an immediate start with the replacement of slums and the remedying of unfit houses. He asked for programmes for the first five years, and added, "Many local authorities should be able to solve their slum problems in five years or so without invoking their powers to defer demolition at all. I will certainly expect these authorities to do so. I hope that most urban districts will come into this category."

Mr. Macmillan said that not all local authorities will be able to re-assess the entire problem within 12 months or to prepare a final definite and complete programme for dealing with their unfit houses.

"I expect no more than an estimate of the total problem—the best estimate that can be made—and of the time it will take to deal with the problem, plus a more detailed programme for the first five years," he said.

"I will have to consider each case having regard to the size of the problem and to the building resources available in the locality. In preparing these proposals for the replacement of slums each local authority will have to make a re-appraisal of its housing need."

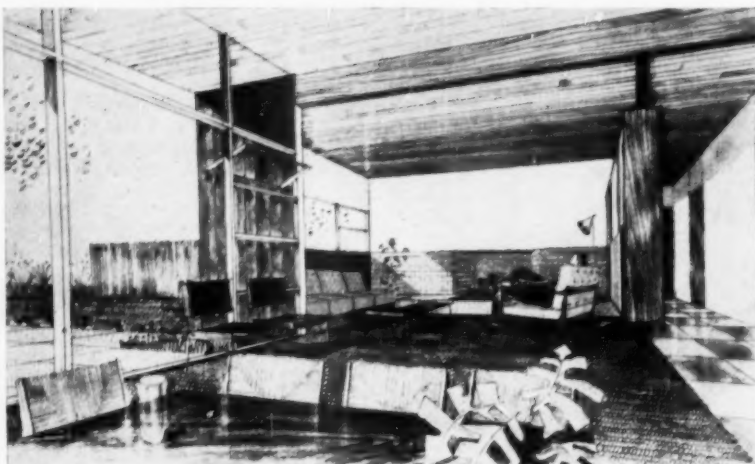
"The allocation of new housing to slum replacement means necessarily that less houses can be provided for general needs, since the total programme is not indefinitely expandable. I know that this may create difficult problems in many areas, but I must ask you to approach the problem with one fact prominently in mind. Local authorities, and local authorities alone, can clear and re-house the slums while the general housing need can be, as it was to a great extent before the war, met by private enterprise, freed as it now is from many of the restraints of licensing control, and assisted, as I sincerely hope it will be, by the facilities which local authorities and building societies can offer to potential house purchasers."

The Minister told the Conference that he had two special types of saving to commend to their urgent attention—the saving of the nation's stock of sound, older houses, and the saving of land and the reclamation of derelict land. He said:

"To-day we have got that elbow room in our housing drive which allows us to spread our building materials over the old houses as well as the new."

"We must produce new homes from our older houses—by converting them into convenient flats, or by improving them to meet modern needs—by giving them bathrooms, modern fireplaces, modern kitchens, and so on."

"I want to arouse property owners



Canadian Home of Tomorrow Competition. Interior of the design by Gardner Erdman, Edinburgh, which gained the European Award. (See also pages 56 and 57).

to the need for modernizing well-built older property, and I want to encourage them to take the financial help which is available in the form of grants.

"I want to enlist the aid of all local authorities so that they will not only make these grants available, but will actively encourage schemes of improvement and conversion. Not only can they give financial help to house owners, but their long experience in the housing field may help many an owner to improve his plans."

The Minister said the attack on the problem of older houses was twofold—by conversion into flats of stoutly built older houses which were too large and too inconvenient for modern conditions; and by improvement of smaller houses, of which there were countless thousands, many of them with no bathroom and no hot water supply, and with inadequate kitchens, and wasteful and smoky heating systems.

Turning to the problem of saving land and reclaiming derelict land, Mr. Macmillan said:

"In this small island with a huge population we cannot afford to be lavish with land. More houses can mean less food if we use valuable land simply because it provides easy sites. I say to every housing and planning authority: 'The time has come to fill up the gaps in our towns, to use the less easy sites, and to look for land to reclaim.'

"I have seen one estimate which puts the amount of derelict land up and down the country at 100,000 acres or more; spoil heaps, old quarries and gravel pits, abandoned industrial sites and the like—much of which modern bulldozing machinery can bring back into usefulness."

"Already something has been done. Since 1945 about 3,500 acres of this land have been cleared in the Black Country, many of them at a cost of less than £200 an acre. Where once

there was desolation there are now houses, factories and places for recreation. And in the next five years 1,500 acres, left derelict through opencast ironstone working, will be levelled and restored to agriculture. Already a start has been made.

"Of course not all this land can be reclaimed but the acres brought back into use mean houses, factories, schools and shops built, and playing fields and open spaces provided, without encroachment on agricultural land. The land reclaimed in the Black Country in the last decade is equivalent in space to that needed for the housing and living facilities for a whole new town or to 30 or 40 farms of average size."

"Where it is too difficult or too costly to reclaim land we can at least transform some of the eyesores by planting—so that our pit heaps become green hills. The National Coal Board and the Forestry Commission are experimenting to increase knowledge of the most suitable types of trees and plants to clothe spoil heaps in different climates and conditions. And a great deal is being done by the British Electricity Authority, the Coal Board, local authorities and private firms, to avoid new horrors by judicious tipping and quarrying."

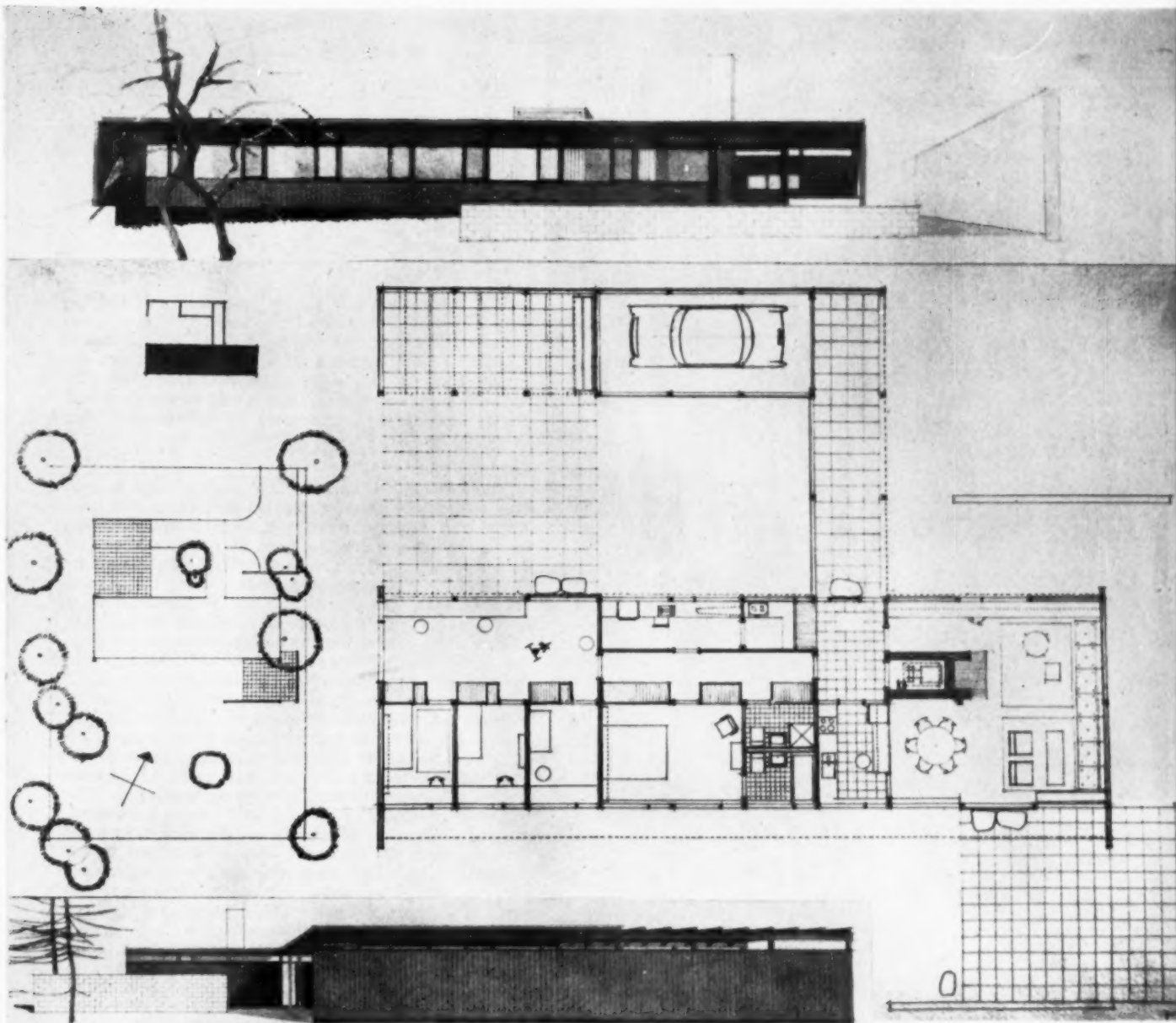
"We cannot say that we are doing our utmost either to help our food production or to guard the beauties of our land if we ignore the derelict acres and if we leave gaps in our towns simply because the sites are small or awkward."

Housing Progress, May

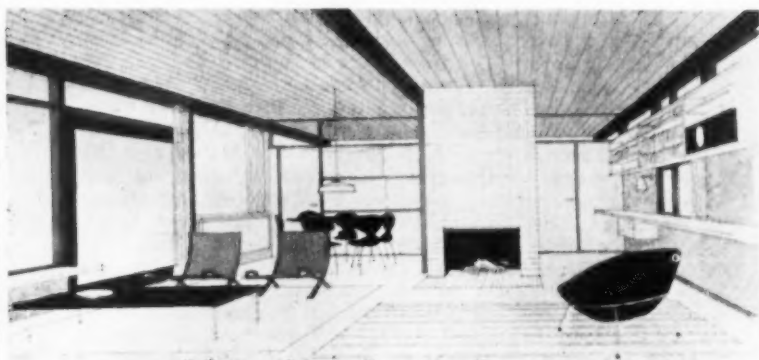
The number of permanent houses completed in Great Britain during May was 31,371 compared with 26,013 in May, 1953.

CORRECTION

On page 24, in last week's issue, "Special Fund" should have read "Special Final."



DESIGN BY
KNUD HARBOE
AWARDED \$5,000



Canadian Home of Tomorrow Competition

In the McGill University International Calvert House Competition for the Canadian Home of Tomorrow, the assessors, Professor Arthur of Toronto University, Professor Ponti of Milan and Mr. Humphrey Carver, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Ottawa, made the following awards: International Award of \$5,000: Knud P. Harboe, Charlottenlund, Denmark.

European Award of \$2,500: Gardner Ertman, 37 Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh.

Canadian Award of \$2,500: Geoffrey E. Hacker, Winnipeg. The International Award design is illustrated on this page, the European and Canadian Award designs are on pages 56 and 57.

ARCHITECT'S OWN HOUSE

29 Hall Drive Sydenham

designed by

Edward D. Mills, F.R.I.B.A.

Site

The site is situated in a quiet unadopted road and was originally part of a tennis club, the old pavilion being completely destroyed during the war. The road end of the site is partly enclosed by a high brick wall and the ground floor slab and paving of the old building, together with two small outbuildings remain, with a number of fruit trees. The level of the site generally is some 2 or 3 feet below the road level and is fairly flat.

Layout and Planning

The house was designed for the architect's own occupation and the accommodation provided consists of a large living area, four bedrooms, box room, study, bathroom and kitchen, with a double garage, the total area excluding garage being limited to a maximum of 1,500 square feet by the licensing regulations. In order to make the most of the floor space, the ground floor has been planned as an open area with the minimum of circulation space. The kitchen opens directly off the dining recess and the staircase to the first floor rises straight from the living area. In order to give some privacy to the study, this is detached from the main two-storey block with a small linking entrance hall, which also includes a W.C. and coat hanging space. To obtain the greatest benefit from the southern aspect the house has been placed at right angles to the road and both living room and dining recess have french windows on to paved terrace areas on the south side. The bedrooms on the first floor have been kept to a minimum size and the amount of corridor has also been reduced to the minimum. Built-in wardrobes are provided in the principal bedroom and in the box room a bunk bed is built over the staircase bulkhead. Heating to the house is provided by a Weatherfoil unit which is housed in a cupboard space below the stairs, and this is connected with an Aga solid fuel boiler which also provides domestic hot water. A free-standing open fire is fitted in the living area to provide additional heat if necessary. It has been found however, that the Weatherfoil unit provides a good standard of background heat at both ground and first floor level for the major part of the year when heating is required. Supplementary heating to the study and bedrooms is provided by means of independent electric fires.

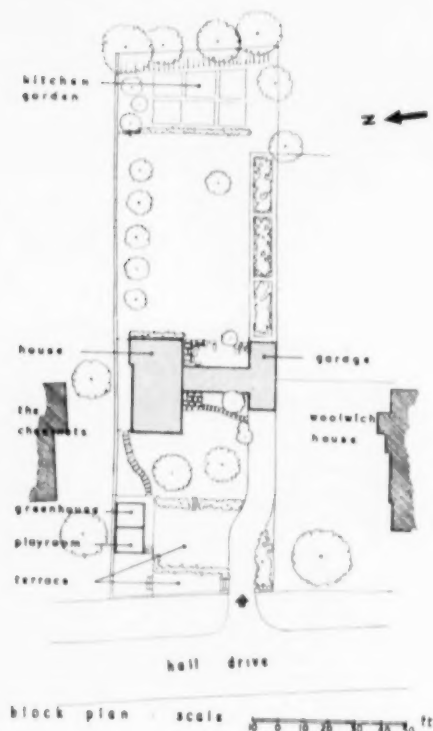
Construction

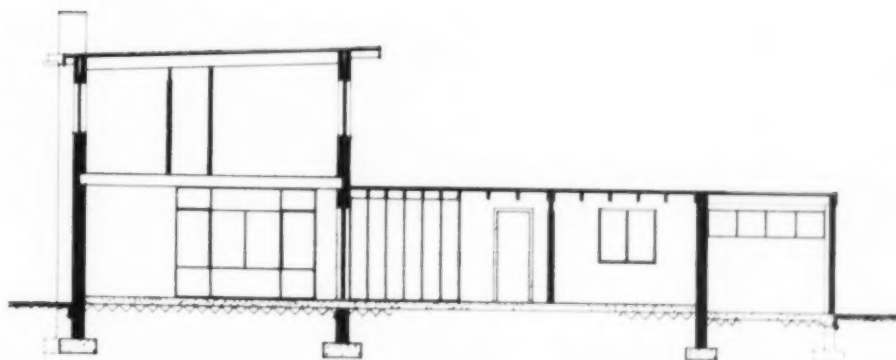
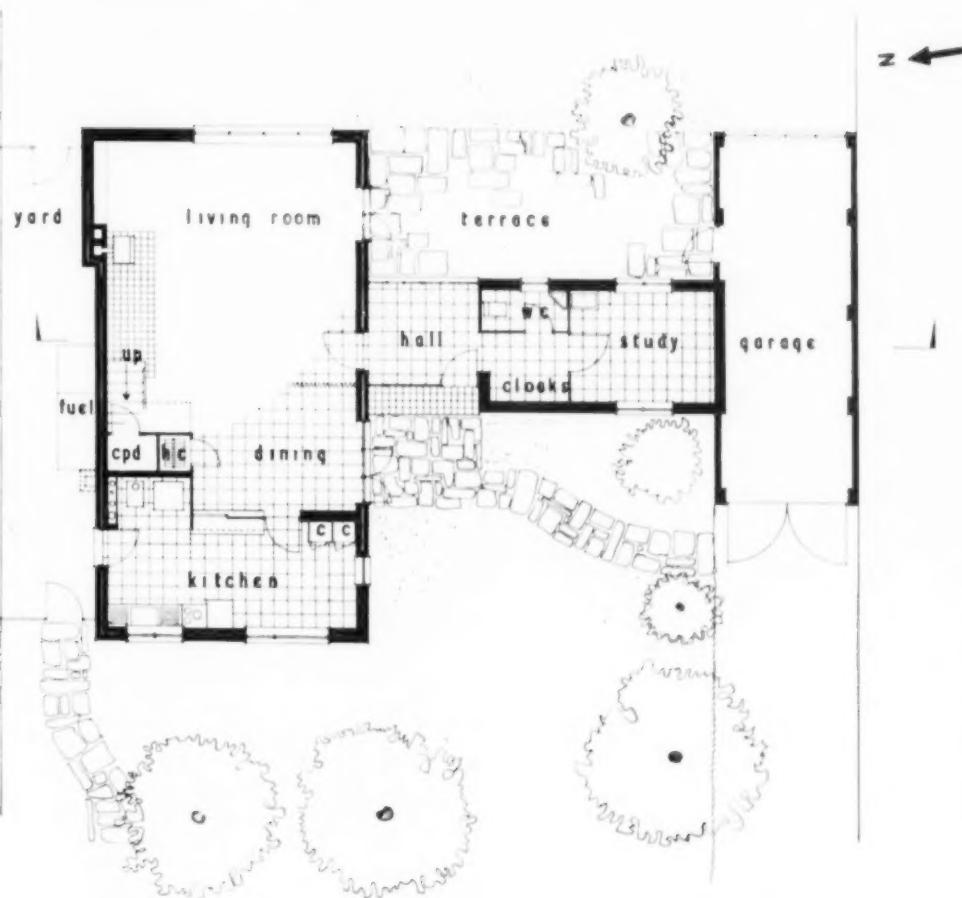
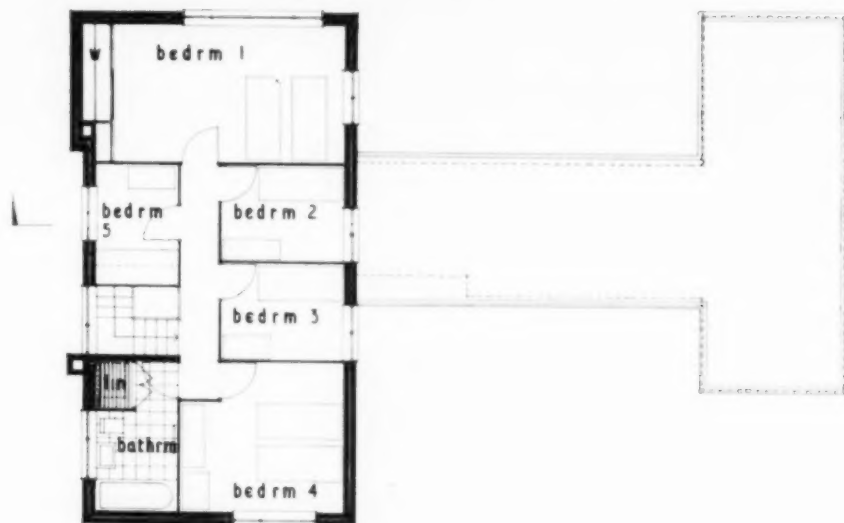
The two-storey part of the building is constructed with 11in cavity walls, consisting of 4½in skin of buff facing brick externally, a two-inch cavity, and a 4½in Leca block inner lining. The single-storey section is in 9in brickwork, colour washed, mainly fairfaced inside. First floor and roofs are in timber with one way pitch, covered with wood-slab and finished with asphalt. The ground floor is concrete on hardcore finished with Marley tiles, the first floor being tongued and grooved softwood boarding. Internal partitions are breeze block plastered, and ceilings are finished with a skim coat of plaster on plaster board. A certain amount of internal walls to the living area are in fair faced brickwork. Metal windows on a 2ft unit using standard section are used throughout with standard flush doors and standard kitchen cupboard units. The entrance hall screen and the upper flight of the staircase are in polished hardwood, the lower flight of the staircase

[Continued on page 43]



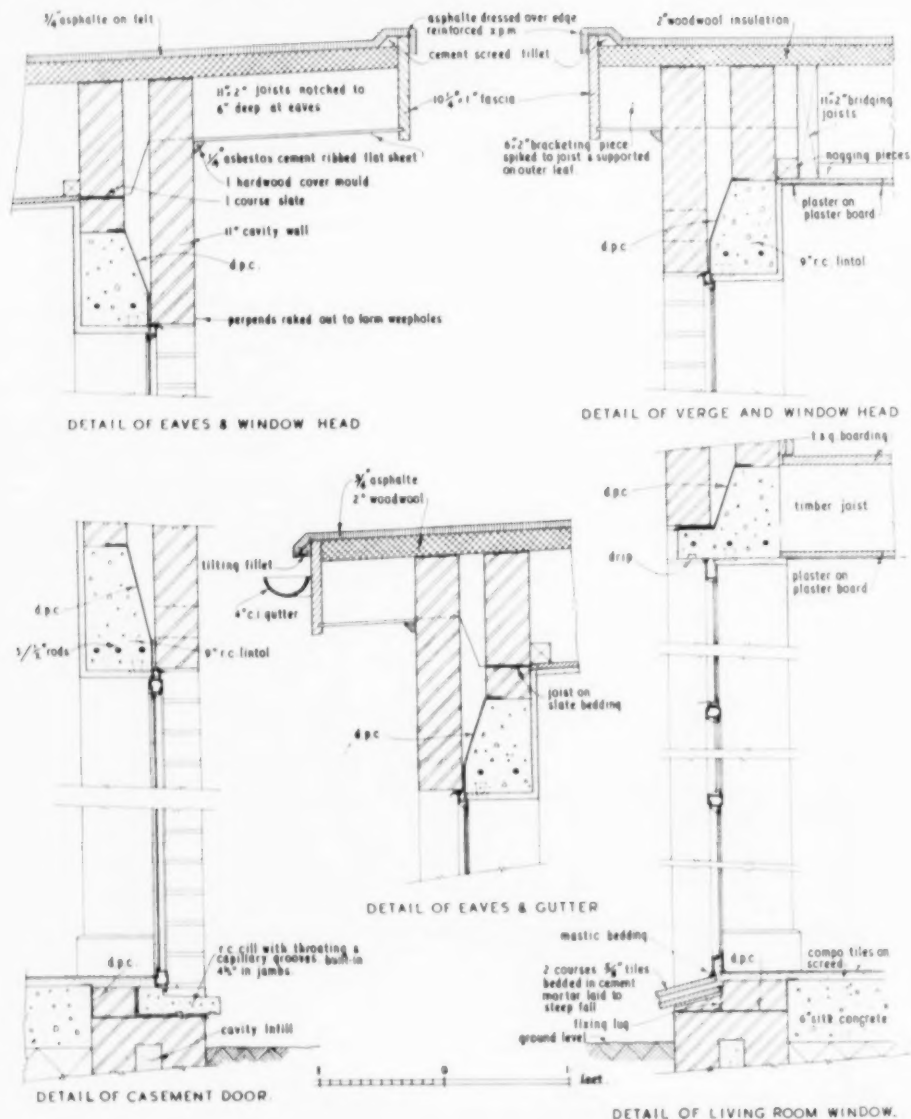
The Entrance, from West

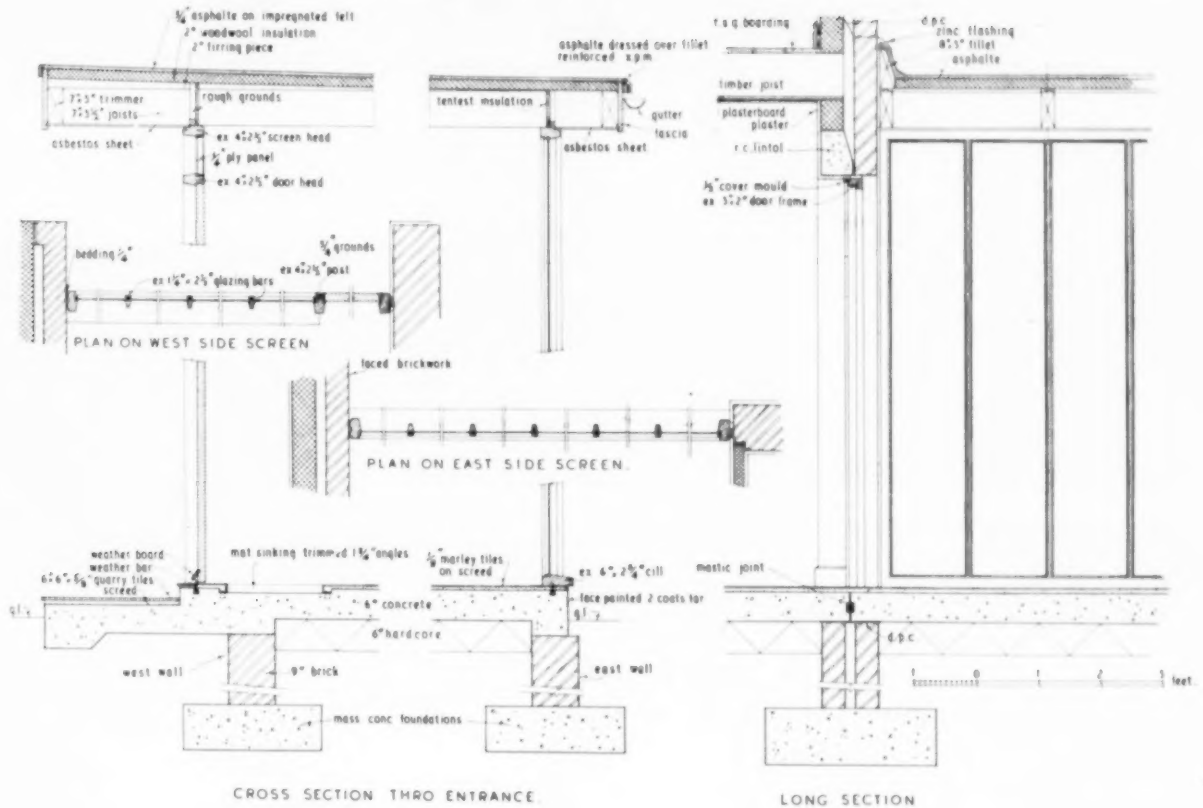






View from the South-East





Living Room



House at

- 1 The kitchen which opens off the dining recess.
- 2 Principal bedroom.
- 3 Free-standing open fire in living room.
- 4 Hall, looking towards study.



- 5 Bedroom 2.
- 6 Living room : view towards dining area.
- 7 Living room and Architect from landing.

PHOTOS: COLIN WESTWOOD

S y d e n h a m . S . E . 6

consisting of precast reinforced concrete treads cantilevered from the adjoining wall. The staircase handrail is in metal. Wall and ceiling surfaces generally are dis-tempered in light colours, softwood joinery is painted with a gloss paint, and small areas of the kitchen and bathroom are tiled. In the single-storey section the woodwool slab to the roof is left exposed and the timber joists are wrot



6

and painted. For the entrance hall strong colours have been used, coral red on the ceiling and deep blue on part of the wall area. Externally all woodwork and metal-work is painted with a hard gloss paint, and the colour wash to the single-storey section is partly blue and partly white. The electrical system throughout is in tough rubber cable in the floors and conduit where it is buried in plaster. A ring main system has been employed with 13-amp fused plug outlet sockets, using British Standard sockets throughout. The entrance drive and yard are finished with tarmac on hardcore, and the terrace is laid in random squares of paving slabs. Cost on the contract figure including certain built-in fittings is approximately £2 10s per square foot.

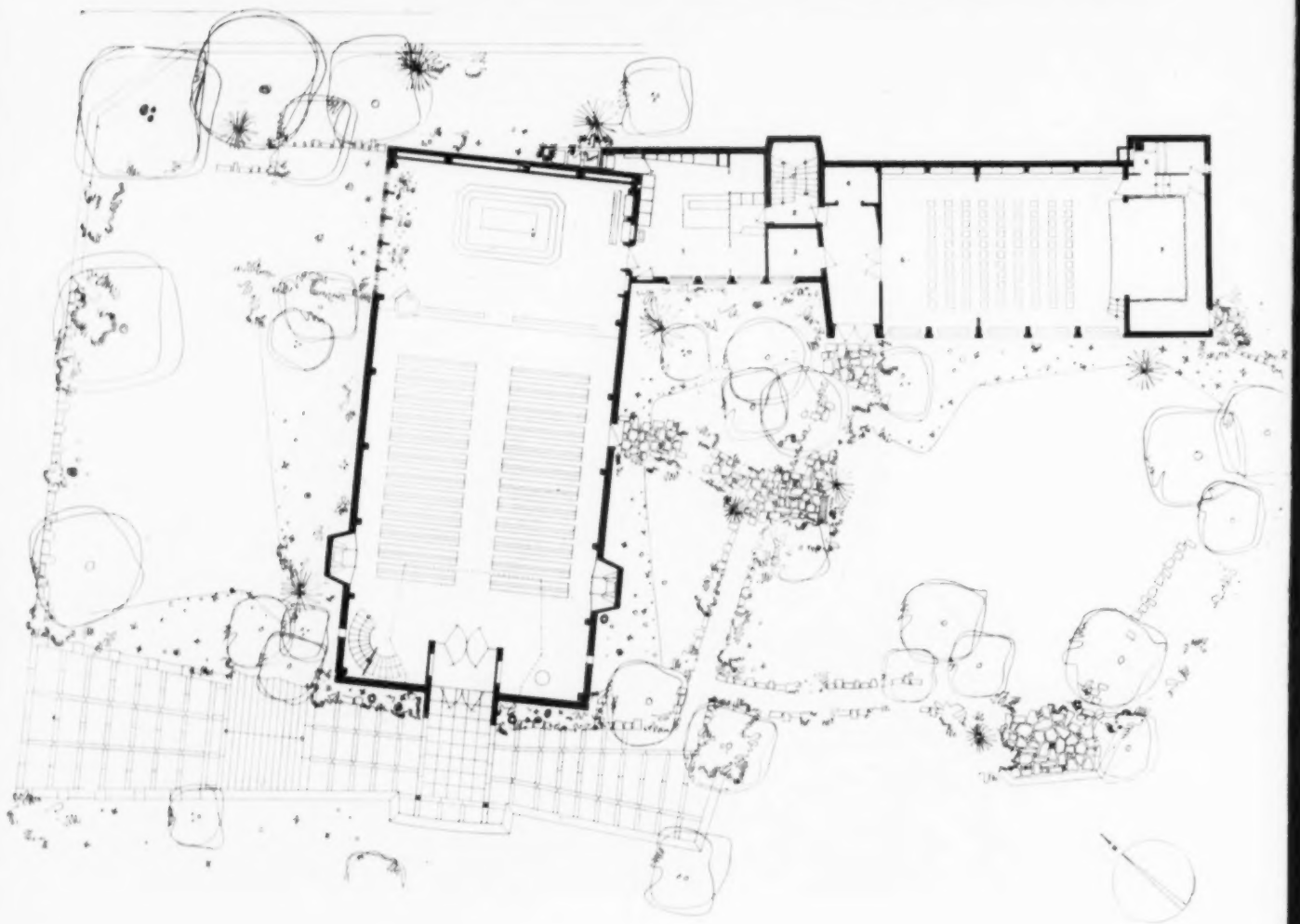
Quantity Surveyor: Leslie W. Clark, Esq., F.I.A.S.

General Contractor: J. Stevens & Son (Greenwich), Ltd.

Facing Bricks: Hammill Brick Co., Ltd. *Precast Concrete Stair Treads:* F. Bradford & Co., Ltd. *Metal Windows:* James Couper & Co., Ltd. *Leca Blocks:* Lightweight Precast Concrete Co., Ltd. *Heating:* Weatherfoil Heating Systems, Ltd. *Electrical Installation:* London Electricity Board. *Gas Installation:* South Eastern Gas Board. *Damp Proof Course:* Ruberoid Co., Ltd. *Sanitary Fittings:* Stitsons Sanitary Fittings, Ltd. *Doors and kitchen fittings:* Jayanbee Joinery, Ltd. *Woodwool slab, plasterboard and plaster:* Gyproc Products, Ltd. *Ironmongery:* Mountford Bros., Ltd. *Asphalte and Tarmac:* Val de Travers Asphalte Paving Co., Ltd. *Built-in Curtain Rails:* Thomas French & Sons, Ltd. *Flooring:* Marley Tile Co., Ltd. *Wall and Floor Tiling:* Cope & Co., Ltd. *Paint and Distemper:* Mander Bros., Ltd. and Stic B Paints Co. *Open fire:* McDynald Engineers (Kirkcaldy), Ltd. *Lighting Fittings:* Finmar, Ltd. and Peter Jones, Ltd. *Staircase Handrail:* Allen & Greaves, Ltd. *Timber:* W. C. Ware & Co., Ltd. *Common Bricks:* London Brick Co., Ltd.

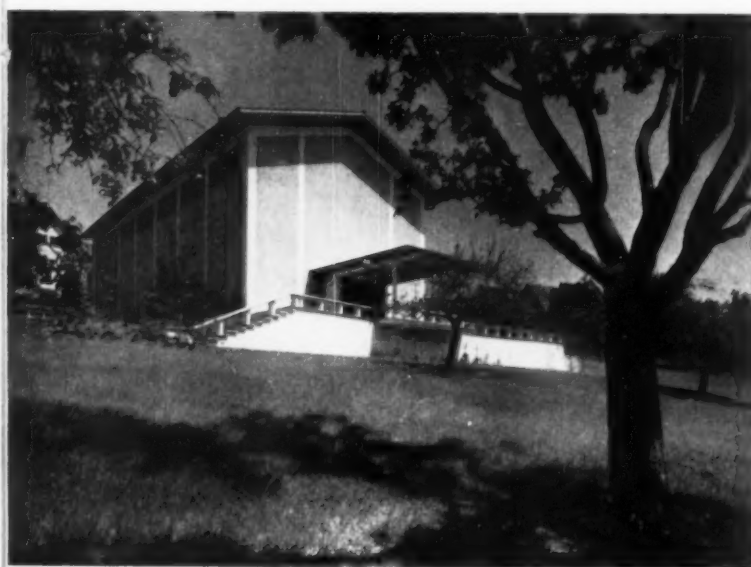
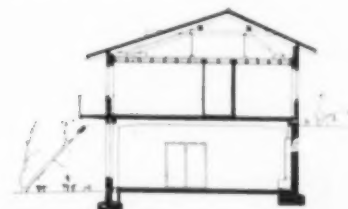
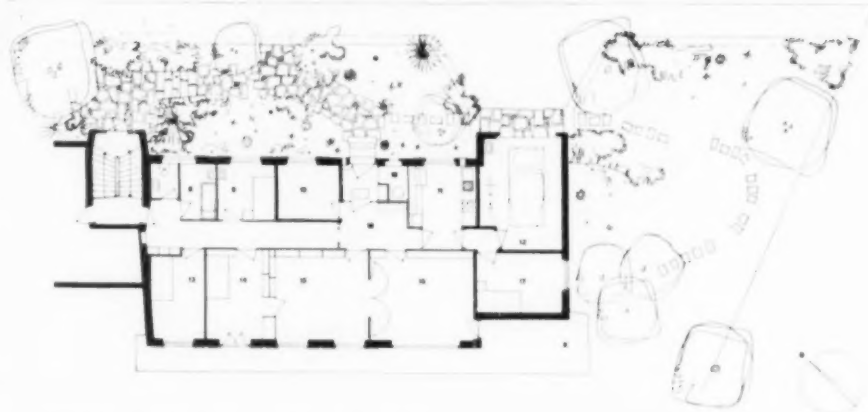


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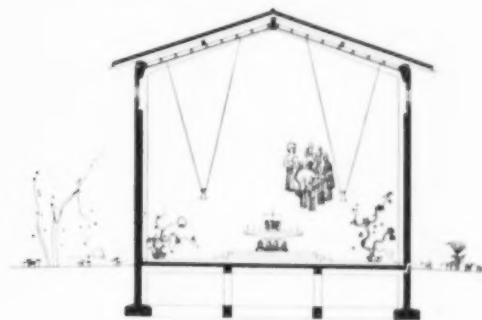


Catholic Church at Thayngen, Switzerland

ARCHITECT:
JOSEPH SCHUTZ



The building illustrated is a church and hall for a small village on the Swiss-German border. It is in r.c. frame construction painted white externally with stucco panels in grey. The chancel wall is in red brick with applied sculpture group in white by Joseph Rickenbacher.



KEY

1. SACRISTY
2. TOWER
3. DRESSING ROOM
4. CLOAKS
5. HALL
6. KITCHENETTE]]
7. STAGE
8. BATHROOM
9. VISITOR'S ROOM
10. CONSULTING ROOM
11. KITCHEN
12. GARAGE
13. VISITOR'S ROOM
14. PRIEST
15. STUDY
16. DINING ROOM
17. MAID'S ROOM
18. WAITING ROOM
19. CLEANER'S CLOSET

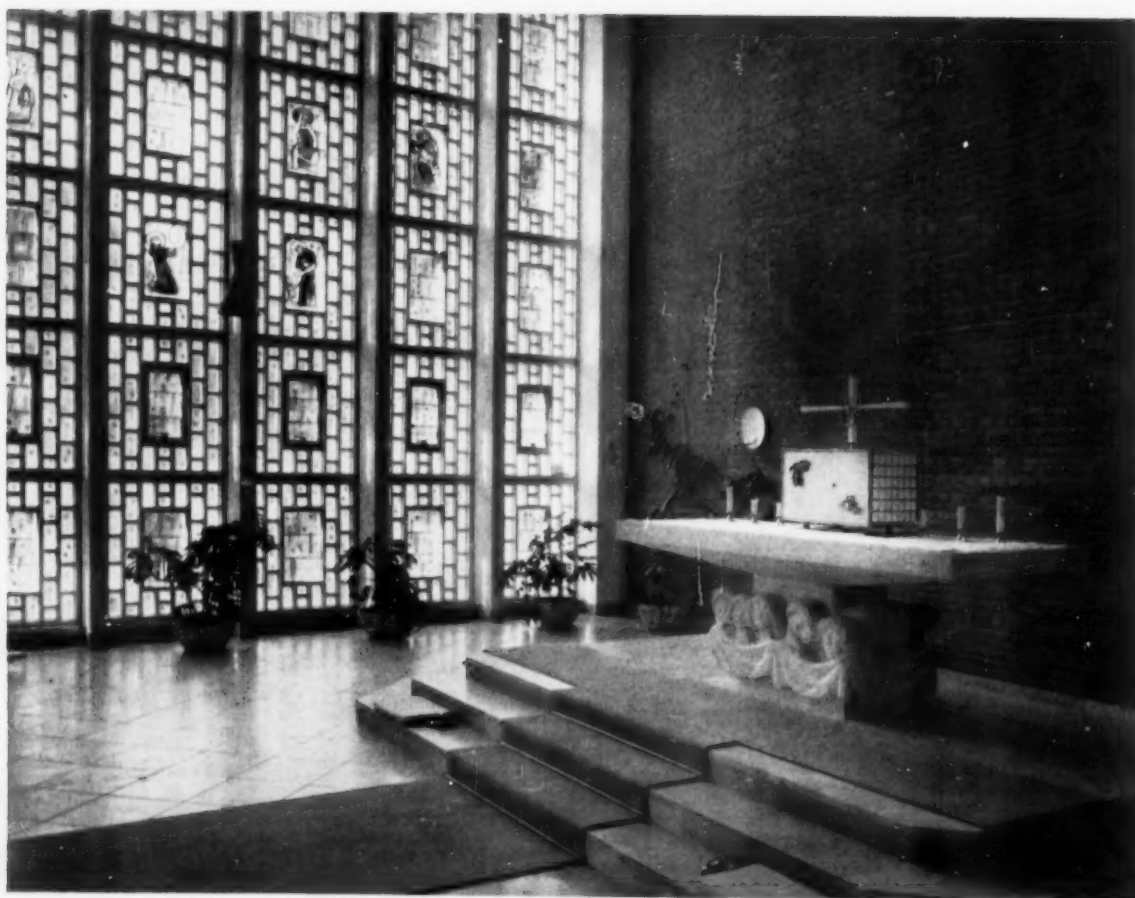


Church at Thayngen, Switzerland

ARCHITECT

JOSEPH
SCHUTZ

The Sanctuary is lit on one side by floor-to-ceiling stained glass lights set in deep mullions with responds on the facing wall. The side walls and ceiling are panelled in light wood with clerestory lighting. The bell-cum-clock tower is of open r.c. frame construction in the traditional modern manner.



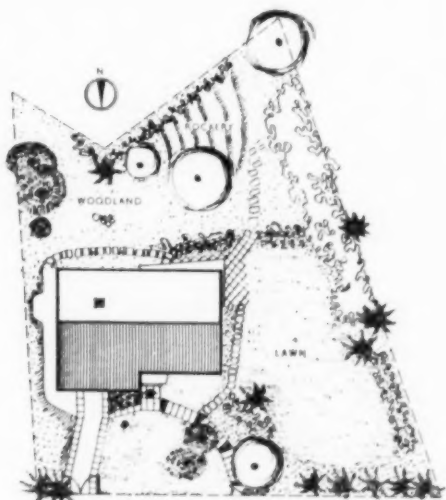


Garden elevation from South.

ARCHITECT'S OWN HOUSE

House at 21, Drax Avenue, Wimbledon

designed by J. E. K. HARRISON, F.R.I.B.A. (Westwood Sons & Harrison)



1 in = 40 ft

Planning

The site has an irregular shape, with a wide frontage to the road, but somewhat restricted depth, and the ground falls from the road frontage to the southern tip of the site. It was formerly part of a much larger property and has a variety of trees and a fine bank of rhododendrons along the west boundary. All the main trees have been retained except for those on, or very close to, the site of the actual building.

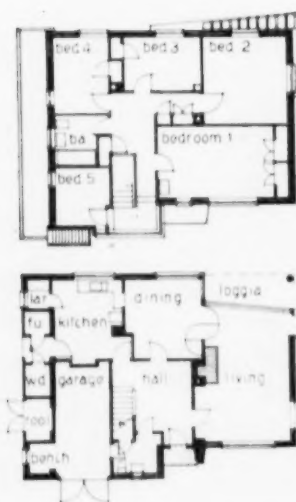
The house is sited close to the east boundary, allowing space for a garden at the side, and the loggia and long range of windows to living and dining room is planned to give the view to the greatest depth of the site and the trees beyond.

The gross floor area of ground and first floors within external walls is 1,800 sq ft, including garage, stores and back porch, but excluding the loggia. To provide accommodation for a family of six with one boy and three girls, five bedrooms were required, the double room at the south-west corner to serve as combined bedroom and playroom for the two younger girls. On the ground floor, a glazed door and screen between dining-room and hall gives, on entering, a view through the house to the garden beyond. The dining and living areas are connected by a wide opening with double doors hinged at the centre to avoid obstruction of the windows. The kitchen is designed as an auxiliary

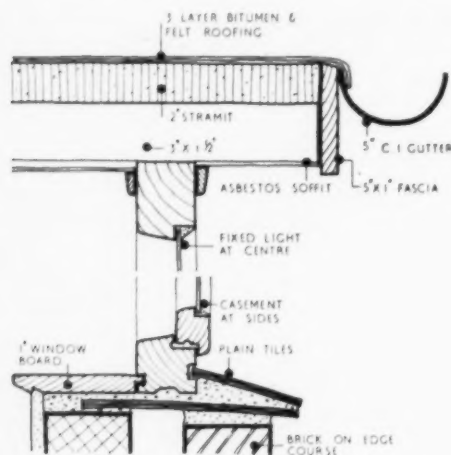


meals room and has direct access to a back porch-cum-draught lobby with fuel stores on either side. The garage is accessible through the cloakroom. In a recess is a small work bench, and the adjoining store accommodates bicycles

Above: The West side. Right: The entrance front. The further window, which lights the staircase, is detailed above.



1 in = 24 ft



1/2 F.S. detail of landing window at cill and head.

and garden tools. The large roof space provides an attic studio for the owner, with access by loft ladder (which he can draw up after him). There is a general storage loft beyond.

Ceiling heights: Ground floor 8ft, first floor 7ft 6in, but with 7ft height for bathroom and landing to give maximum height in the attic above.

Materials and Construction

Whilst exercising strict economy generally, special attention was given to thermal insulation. External walls are 11in cavity construction, with Sussex Stock facings and an inner skin of 4in hollow clinker blocks. Similar 2 1/2in blocks were used for internal partitions. The external walls over the loggia and dining-room windows are carried by steel stanchions, joists and R.C. lintels. Windows are in softwood, about half being standard EJMA type and the





Living-room, looking to the South, with the general storage fitting on the right.

remainder purpose-made with "Insulight" double-glazing to the large fixed south windows of the living- and dining-rooms. The roof is framed with T.D.A. trussed rafters at 5ft 4in centres and intermediates at 16in centres covered with felt and "antique" Sterreberg pantiles at 35 deg pitch. The flat roof over the fuel stores, etc., is of 2in "Stramit" board, spanning from wall to wall and covered with 3-layer bitumen and felt. Ground floors are of solid construction, with Makore hardwood blocks in hall, living and dining areas; linoleum and quarry tiles in kitchen. First floors are T. & G. boarded, finished with floor seal. The staircase handrail and exposed joists over the loggia are in European beech; mantel of fireplace, cupboard fitment and facing of doors in living-room in mahogany.

Services

Central heating is by coke-fired boiler, with thermostatic control, gives heating to the dining-room, living-room, children's bedroom-playroom, hall and landing. A "Camelon" fire in the living-room, with underfloor air supply and deep ash-pit, also supplies convected air to the main bedroom, the air supply coming from the hall.

Hot water is supplied from a calorifier heated by the boiler and with electric immersion heater for summer use.

All soil and waste pipes are internal, with a "single-stack" system serving the fittings in the bathroom.

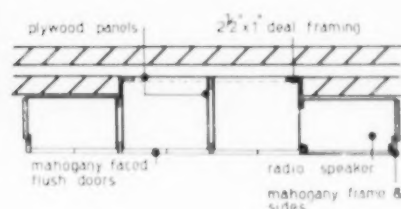
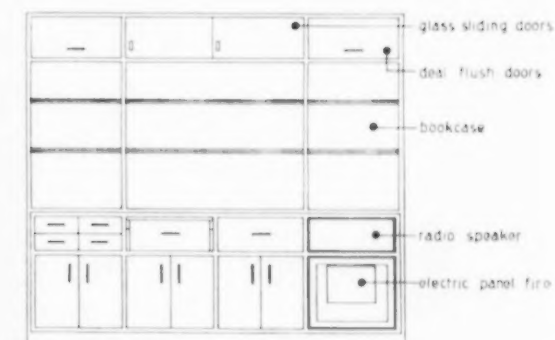
Fittings

A general storage fitment on the west wall of the living-room accommodates books, gramophone and records, radio, electric fire, correspondence, etc., and has a pull-out writing flap. The lower central section is recessed into the wall, keeping the overall projection down to 12in.

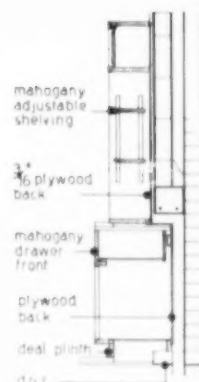
A 2-way fitment between dining-room and kitchen accommodates cutlery and china, with an adjoining drawer and cupboard accessible from the dining-room and taking up the dead space in the internal angle. The fitment is continued at high level over the boiler as a drying cupboard, the soffit consisting of a wire grid.

Cost

Approximately £4,200, including external services and entrance gates, but excluding pavings to loggia and garden. The cost per cubic foot was 3s 6d.



General storage fitting in living-room.
Scale: 1in = 3ft.



Below: Entrance Hall with kitchen and dining-room beyond.





Dining-room, seen through the opening to the living-room. The doors are hinged together at the centre and fold away on the dining-room side.



Above: Bedroom I. Below: Kitchen. Standard EJMA fittings are combined with the purpose-made fitting between kitchen and dining-room.



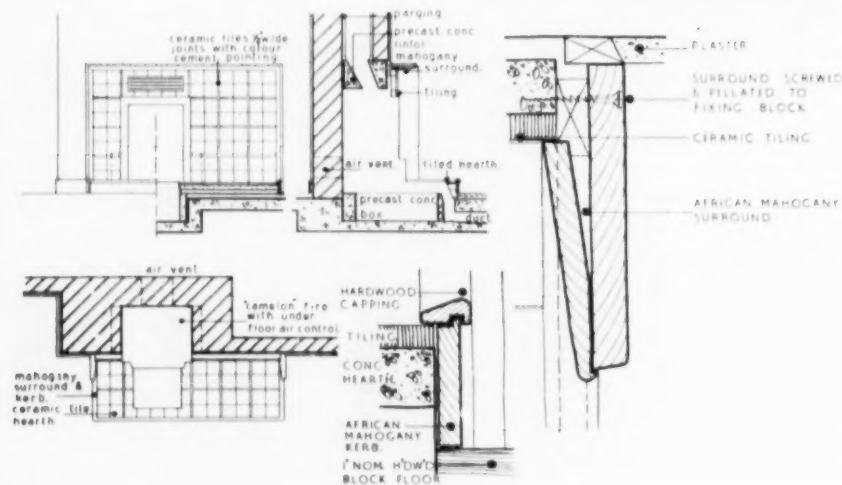
House at Wimbledon

ARCHITECT: J. E. K. HARRISON

Contractors

Building Contractors: F. Hartfree, Ltd., 157A, Kingston Road, New Malden.

Heating and Hot Water Installation: J. Sykes & Son, 37, Windsor Avenue, New Malden. Electrical Installation: Rashleigh Phipps & Co., Ltd., Thackeray Street, Kensington Square, W.8. Standard Windows and Flush Doors: J. Sadd & Sons, Ltd., Maldon, Essex. Wood Block Flooring: Hollis Bros., Ltd., 150, Holborn, W.C.1. Floor and Wall Tiling: Cope & Co., Ltd., 8, Gray's Inn Road, Holborn, W.C.1. Ironmongery: W. N. Froy & Sons, Ltd., King Street, Hammersmith, W.6. Living Room Fitting: F. W. Clifford, Ltd., Tudor Works, Dorset Place, S.W.1.



Photos:
Colin Westwood

Living-room fireplace elevation, plan and section, 1 in = 4 ft and $\frac{1}{2}$ F.S. details.

IN PARLIAMENT

Architectural Standards

Mr. Frederick Willey asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government what action he proposed to take in view of the low architectural standards of the reconstruction of central urban areas now taking place to which attention had been drawn by the Royal Fine Art Commission. Mr. Marples, the Parliamentary Secretary, stated that the Minister believed that the Commission's concern arose mainly over the rebuilding of the City of London, and he is already in touch with the commission, the City Corporation, and the London County Council. He was informed that arrangements were instituted earlier this year for the City's planning consultants, Dr. Charles Holden and Professor Sir William Holford, who was also a member of the commission, to meet regularly with officers of the corporation and of the county council. The purpose of this was to consider the general form of development for each of the main building units in the war damaged areas of the City, as well as to deal with individual proposals. Under this procedure, close and early collaboration, the Minister understood, would be maintained with the commission on questions of design in the more important cases. These arrangements would, he hoped, do much in the future to remove the commission's present apprehension. (June 29.)

Clearing the Broad

Mr. Parker asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government what he proposed to prevent further deterioration of the Broad. Mr. Marples said that this would be a matter for the Minister only if the Broad were designated as a national park; and although the National Parks Commission had discussed this with officers of the Department from time to time they had as yet made no proposal to that end. The Minister was advised that the cost of clearing the weeds and the silt would be very heavy, and he was not persuaded that it would be right to contemplate so major an undertaking. (June 29.)

Victoria Street Project

Sir Herbert Williams asked the Assistant Postmaster-General how much of the Christ Church Green site in Victoria Street, S.W.1, would be occupied by the new post office, and what garage accommodation would be provided. Mr. Gammans told him that only the site of the disused church and the vicarage adjoining would be occupied by the proposed telephone exchange and public post office. There would be no garage. Sir Herbert Williams criticized the absence of garage accommodation and said it was time the State stood up to its responsibilities in ridding the streets of vehicles. Mr. Gammans explained that this was not to be a sorting office and

therefore there would be no need for a garage. The ground floor of the building would be used for a public post office. Mr. Hastings asked for an assurance that the valuable open space would not be built on, and Mr. Gammans said he thought he could give the assurance. (June 30.)

Closure of Hutted Camps

Commander Maitland and Mr. Bulard questioned the Minister of Housing and Local Government about the continued use of war-time hutted camps for housing. Mr. Marples, the Parliamentary Secretary, stated that the Minister had already asked housing authorities to close down these camps as soon as possible, adding that houses built to replace them qualified for subsidy. Commander Maitland pressed him to fix a date by which no authority would be allowed to use these camps for housing, quoting from a recent report on them that they "cannot be tolerated any longer." Mr. Marples said that he realized the seriousness of the problem. Local authorities were asked on Mar. 22 to discuss the matter with the principal regional officers of the Ministry. Generally speaking, the hope was that the camps would be closed within three years. (June 29.)

Factory Building

The President of the Board of Trade informed Mr. Brooman-White that in the first quarter of this year approvals of new factory building and extensions in Great Britain numbered 12,306, at an estimated total value of £657,230,000, and for Scotland 37 at an estimated value of £64,430,000. On a percentage basis this showed a decline in the relative position of Scotland compared with the two previous years, but a quarter was too short a period on which to base a comparison. It was expected that the approvals for Scotland

in the second quarter of this year would show an increase over the first quarter, and also over the same quarter in 1952 and 1953. (June 29.)

Sir David Eccles, Minister of Works, stated in answer to Mr. Collick that 497 new factories and extensions of more than 5,000 sq ft in area had been built in the Development Areas by private enterprise between Jan. 1, 1952, and May 31, 1954. Figures for building below 5,000 sq ft were not readily available. (June 29.)

Purchase Too Costly

Mrs. Jeger asked why the Minister of Housing and Local Government had refused to confirm the compulsory purchase order which the St. Pancras Borough Council had made on a site in Brunswick Square zoned as residential in the County of London Plan. Mr. Marples, Parliamentary Secretary, replied that the cost of the land was too high. (June 29.)

Byelaw Application

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government informed Mr. Hay that the byelaw specifying a minimum ceiling height of 7ft 6in was almost universally applicable, a very few exceptions having been allowed on special grounds. (June 29.)

General Foremanship Studies

At the invitation of the City and Guilds of London Institute, the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers has decided to nominate the following three representatives to serve on an exploratory committee to consider the introduction of a national scheme of examination in general foremanship studies: Mr. F. S. Kennewell, of Nottingham; Mr. G. I. Orchard, of Stroud; and Mr. R. W. Whittington, of Southampton.



New housing for coal miners, Voroshilovgrad, U.S.S.R.



One of the playgrounds for small children at Cremorne Gardens, Chelsea. Architects: Armstrong & MacManus.

Playgrounds

4. THE LAYOUT

The last of a series
of articles

by GORDON LOGIE

IN this, the last article, we consider the detailed layout of playgrounds. It is obviously undesirable, even if it were possible, to give any set formula which will give a successful layout, and in this field as elsewhere the result must depend on the individual skill of the designer.

But it is possible out of the successes and failures of existing playgrounds to obtain a great deal of guidance for the designer. It is assumed that he or she will not only be in sympathy with the children's point of view and have fully digested their needs, but will also have decided how many children of each age group are likely to use the playground.

The first step is to study the shape and contours of the site, its relationship to the surrounding buildings, the presence of any existing planting, the direction from which children will approach and any other site conditions affecting the design. It is particularly important to seize any opportunity presented by existing trees and contours, as properly used and brought out these may provide the clue to the whole disposition of the layout.

The different elements such as sandpit, fitted playground, paddling pool, ball games area and so on, should be placed in as many different positions as possible to discover the best arrangement. Circulation is important and it should not be necessary to pass through any one centre of activity to

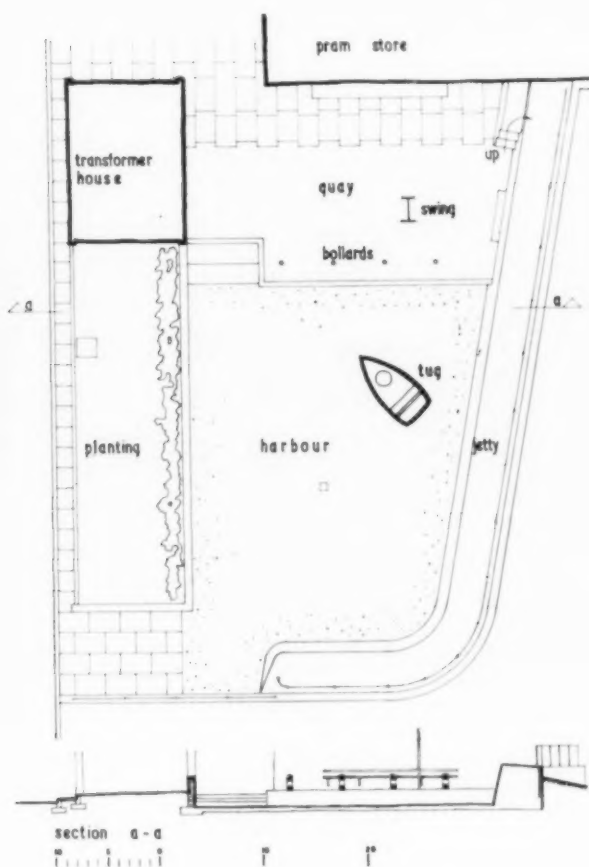
get to any other: if space allows each area should be segregated by planting and fences.

It is important to avoid any temptation to overcrowd the playground by introducing too many bright ideas into one layout. Each playground can be given its own individual character, by the skilful choice of a few pieces of apparatus such as a real boat, a paddling pool with miniature harbour and canal, a log maze or anything out of the ordinary.

A feeling of spaciousness can be obtained either by leaving a large paved or grassed area somewhere in the centre of the playground or by the use of considerable areas of planting as a setting for the apparatus. If at all possible the actual area occupied by apparatus and its safety area should be restricted to a half or at the most two-thirds of the total area of the playground.

It is better to design the playground in three dimensions from the onset by means of a rough model. This gives an immediate appreciation of the visual possibilities of the various solids and voids. The third dimension is provided not only by the apparatus and planting but also by the fences and other types of enclosure.

In designing these the aim should be so to canalize the children's routes that they do not trample on the grass and shrubs; while at the same time avoiding any tendency to



FLATS' PLAYGROUND

Another small playground for young children at Cremorne Gardens, Chelsea. The large sandpit has a miniature harbour wall between it and the adjoining grass.



harsh prison-like enclosures. In the two Swedish playgrounds illustrated last week this is achieved by the use of low wooden fences and guard rails which provide a sufficient barrier without shutting out the view.

The ball games area needs a higher barrier which can be of wire mesh backed on one or both sides by shrubs. The supports for this mesh should be carefully designed to avoid monotony. This can be done by the use of large wooden or metal frames, by trellis work, and by the occasional use of a brick wall as a contrast. The fence need not be higher than eight feet at the sides, or ten to twelve feet at the ends. If the games area can be sunk a few feet into the ground, the mesh can be correspondingly lower and less obtrusive.

In choosing plant material for playgrounds only the hardier and tougher species should be used. The National Playing Fields Association suggests *Pyracantha*, *Berberis*, *Cydonia*, and flowering *Crataegus*, Rowan, *Pyrus* (flowering crabs) *Acer* and *Prunus*. Miss Sylvia Crowe, writing in the Housing Centre Review suggests species which do not rely on a single stem, such as *Ribes*, *Philadelphus* and *Willow*, and remarks that trees stand a better chance if they are what a nurseryman would consider badly grown with several stems rather than the orthodox standard.

She also suggests the use of prickly plants such as *Sea Buckthorn*, *Gorse* and *Scotch Rose* for protecting planted areas; *Polygonum cuspidatum* for children's jungles and grey poplar for general hard wear; and she reminds us that certain plants are popular with children, such as *Philadelphus* with its strong scent, weeping trees for houses, hornbeam for climbing, elders for berries and any plant such as *Thyme*, *Old Man* and *Rosemary* whose leaves can be pinched for scent. Finally for grassed areas which are subject to very hard wear she suggests a mixture of clover and rye grass.

Colour is very important. Children love bright and even garish colours and the apparatus itself should always be brightly painted. Wooden guard rails can be white which contrasts well with the greenery behind them. Any notices should be simple, brightly painted and should be placed at the children's eye level. And, indeed, the children's scale should always be borne in mind when designing details. An example is the delightful rabbit notice board which is used in the Stockholm Parks.

The playgrounds in the following pages have been chosen as good examples of some of the many different kinds which are possible. They serve to show the enormous variety which is possible in playground design and explode for evermore the bad old idea of a playground as a slab of asphalt garnished with a bank of swings.

Varied as they are, they by no means exhaust the field. For example, old canals can be partly filled in and used as paddling pools and children's boating lakes. Then there can be "geographical" paddling pools like that at Ventnor where the Isle of Wight is reproduced in miniature with water all round. Or woodland playgrounds like that recently opened at Holland Park in London. Miniature zoos or pets' corners can be stocked with a wide range of the smaller animals which children prefer to the larger carnivora.

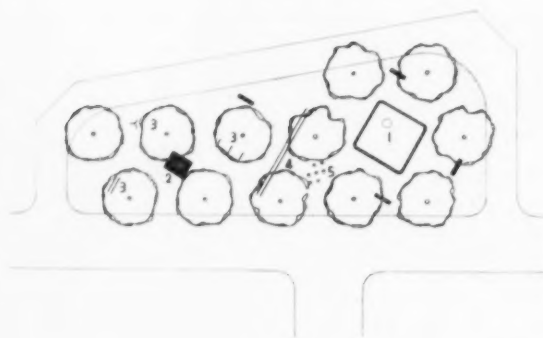
Then there can be climbing playgrounds with rocks and trees to climb, ledges to camp on and caves and grottos to lurk in. And what about a miniature lake village with platforms on piles, and wendy houses each with its own canoe? In fact, the possibilities of playground design are limited only by the imagination of the designer and the purse of his client. But whatever is done it should be simple and direct. Children have marvellous imaginations and can people their world far more satisfactorily for themselves than we can ever do it for them.

Play units on page 29 of last week's issue were drawn to a scale of 32ft = 1in.

Playgrounds



STREET PLAYGROUND

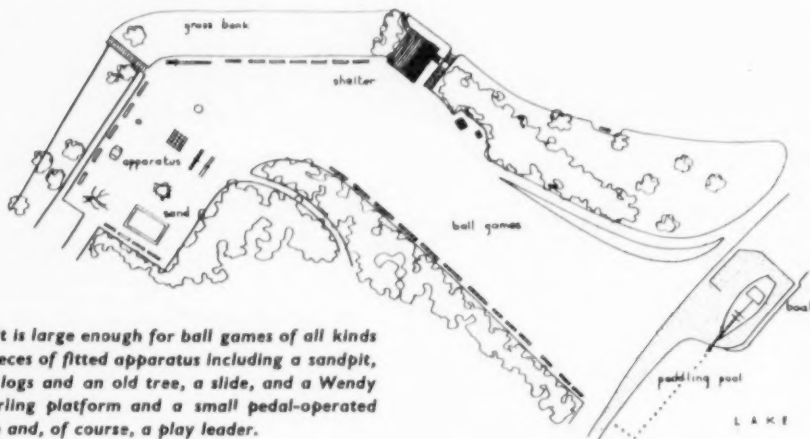


This is typical of the layout of many of the street playgrounds in Amsterdam. It has a sandpit (1); a climbing frame (2); several horizontal bars (3); lower bars for balancing on (4); and concrete bollards (5). The photograph shows another nearby playground with similar apparatus.

PLAY PARK

This playground is part of a park formed out of some of the elaborate fortifications round Copenhagen. The plan is shown right and views below. The old moat is now an ornamental lake, and the playground is in a quiet side valley off this, and well below street level. An old fishing smack complete with cabin, wheelhouse, masts, etc., is beached partly out of the water. The rest of the playground is a large irregularly shaped asphalted area surrounded by dense banks of planting.

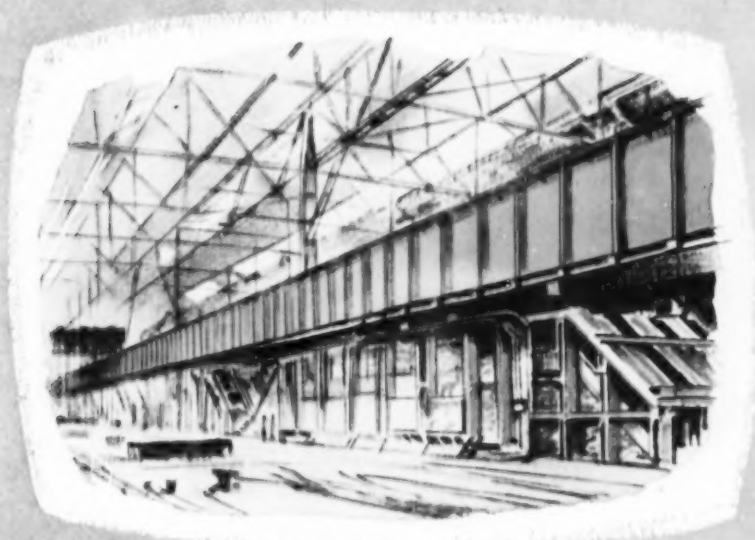
It is large enough for ball games of all kinds and at the upper end there are a number of pieces of fitted apparatus including a sandpit, a jungle gym, two see-saws, various piles of logs and an old tree, a slide, and a Wendy house made out of an enormous cask, a whirling platform and a small pedal-operated roundabout. There is also a covered playroom and, of course, a play leader.



SCALE: 1:1,250



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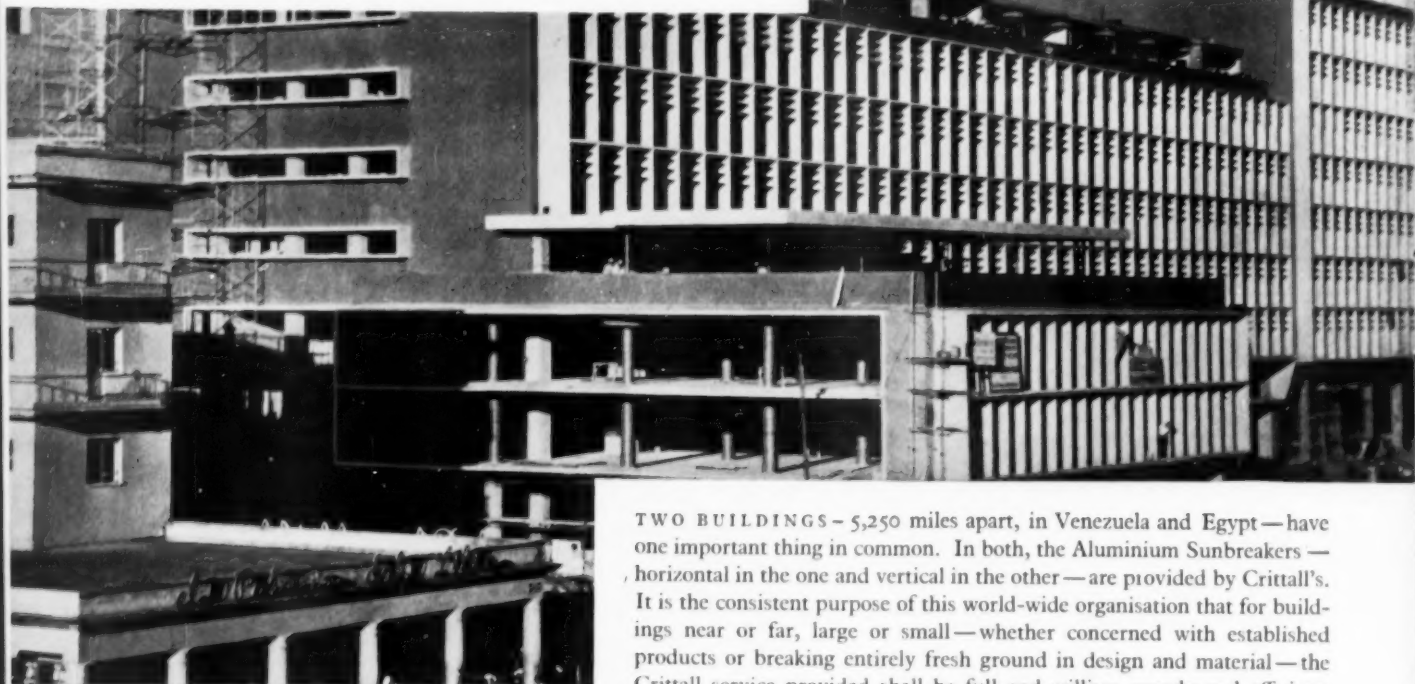
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B.C.S.A.

ALUMINIUM HORIZONTAL SUNBREAKERS

This illustration shows THE C. A. OBRAS BUILDING, Avenida Bolivar, Caracas
(Architect: Dr. Cipriano Dominguez)
which is fitted with CRITTALL HORIZONTAL ALUMINIUM SUNBREAKERS.

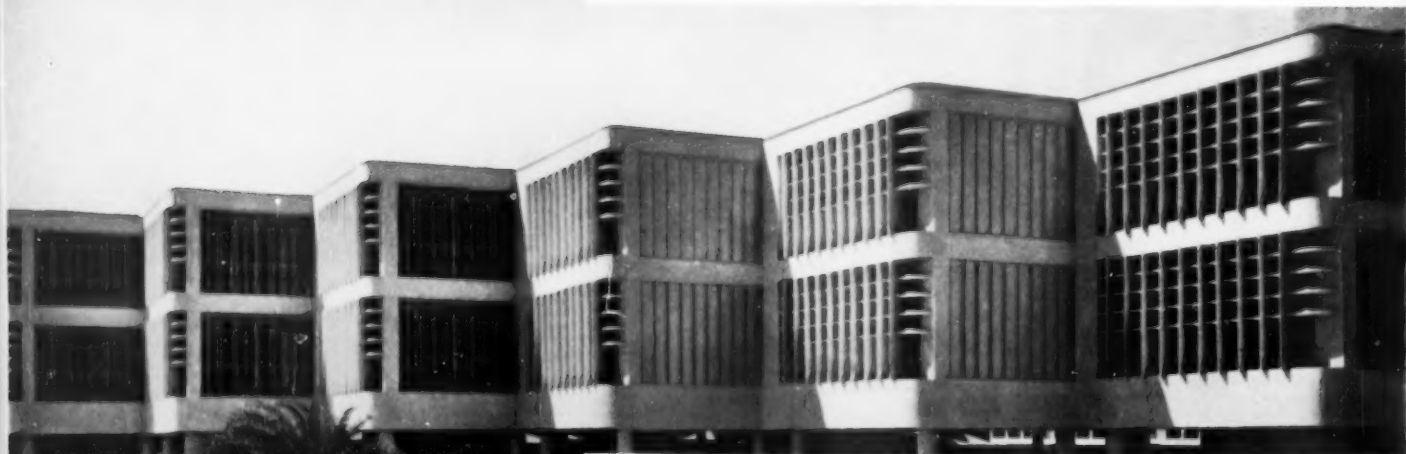


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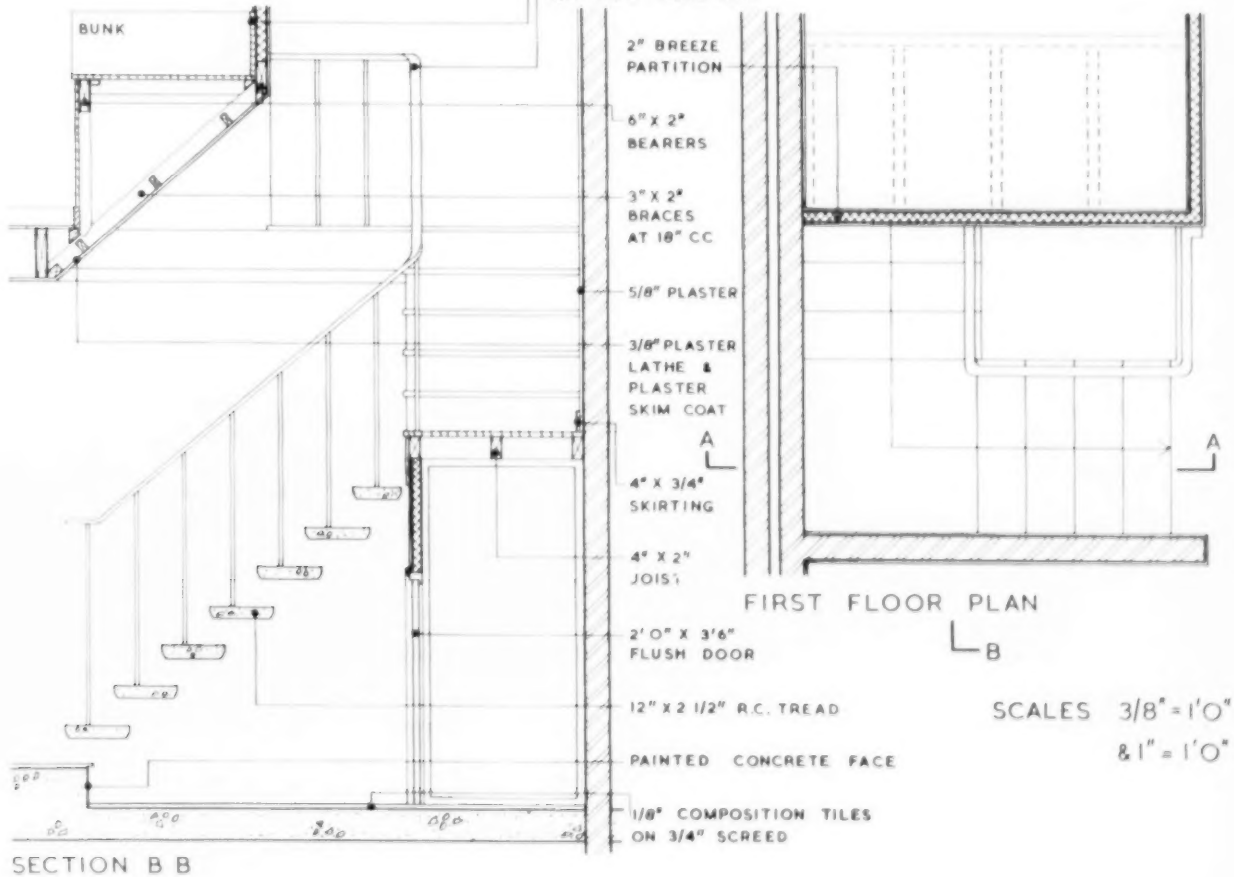
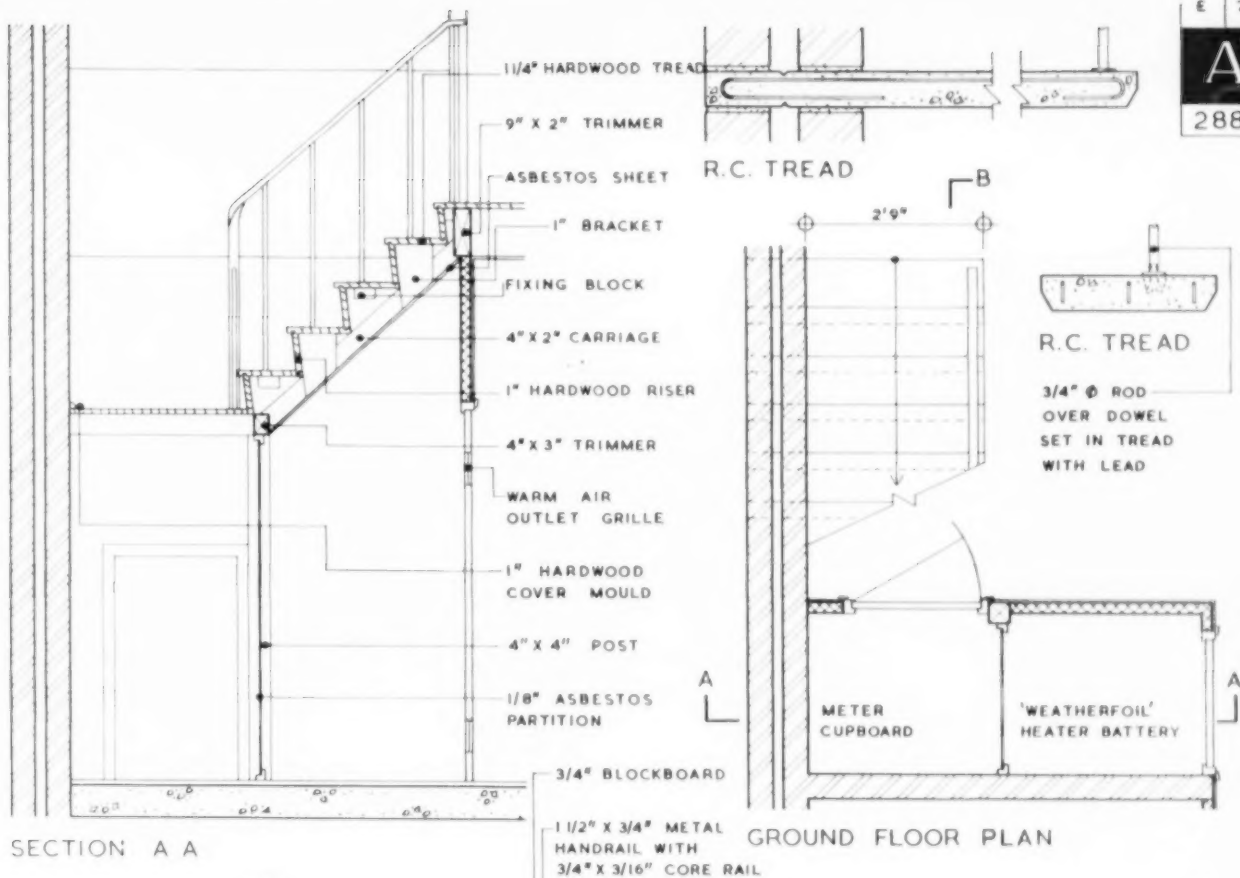
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ALUMINIUM VERTICAL SUNBREAKERS

This illustration shows VICTORIA COLLEGE, CAIRO (Architect: J. W. Pollock, A.R.I.B.A.)
which is fitted with CRITTALL VERTICAL ALUMINIUM SUNBREAKERS.





STAIRCASE, HOUSE AT SYDENHAM
ARCHITECT: EDWARD D. MILLS

CEILING for a John Lewis Store

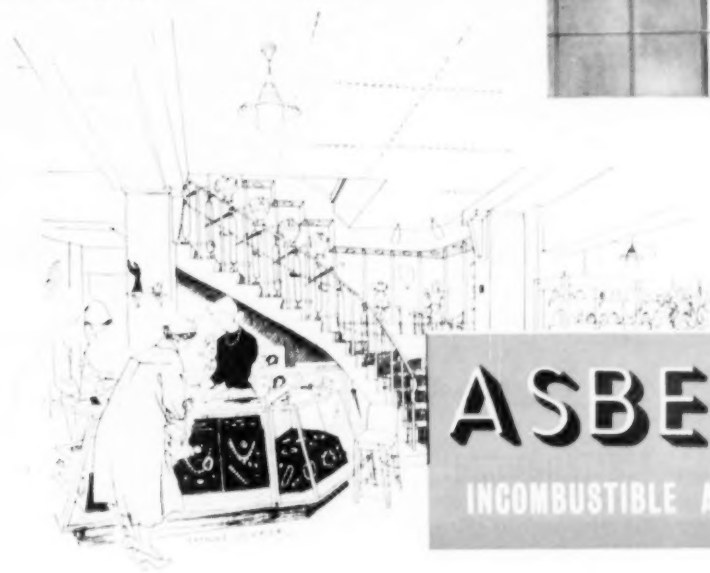
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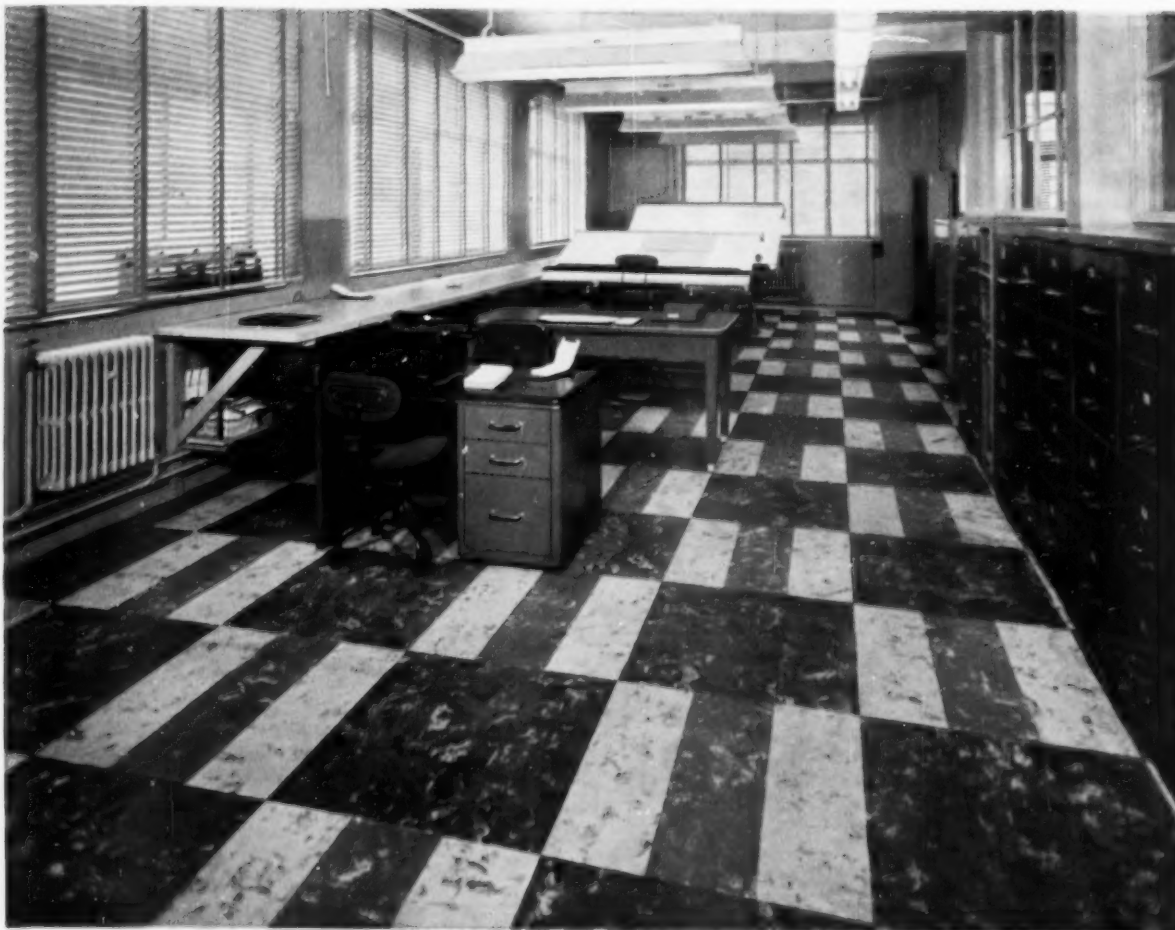
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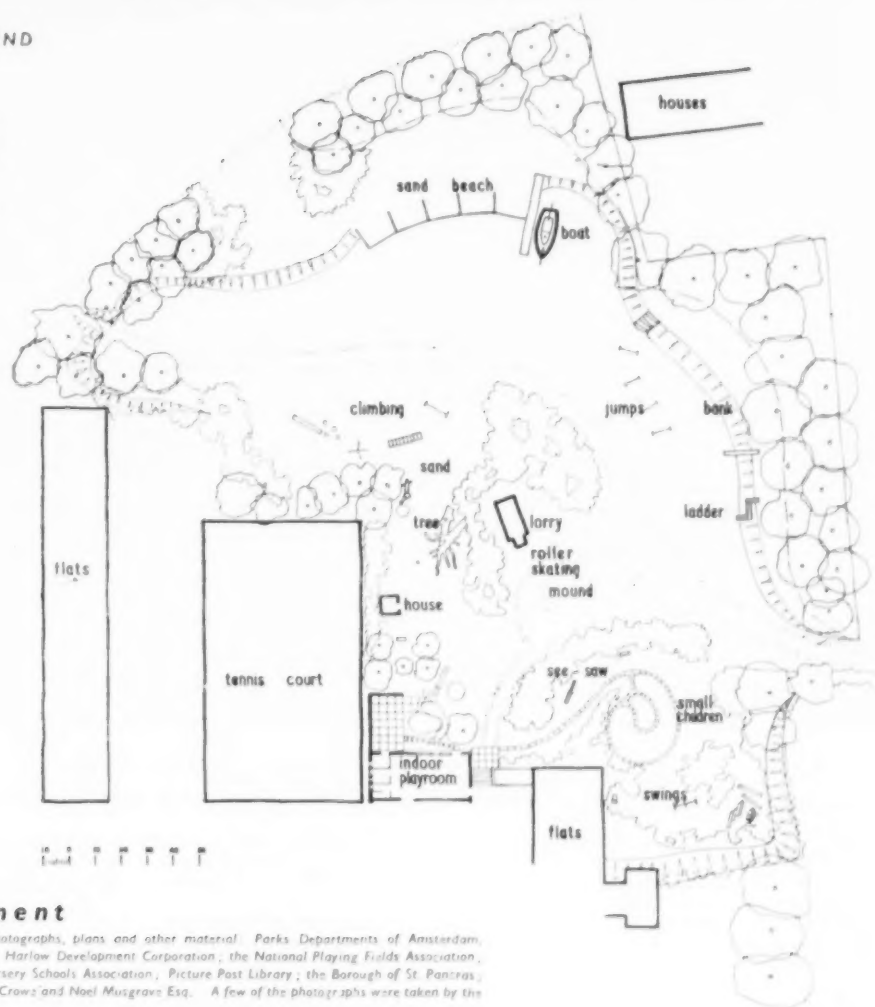
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BIRMINGHAM LEEDS GLASGOW DUBLIN



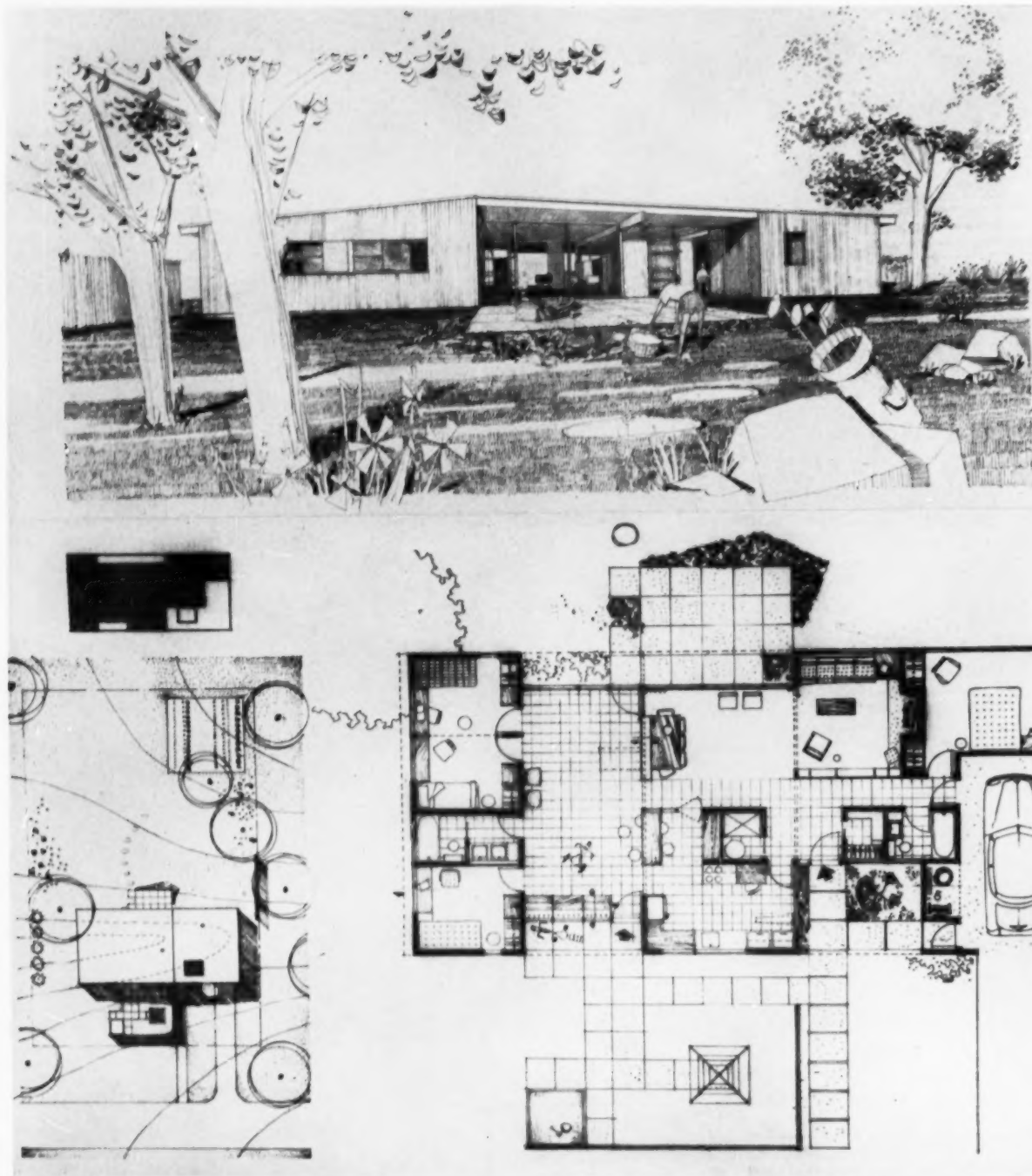
NATURAL PLAYGROUND

A playground at Harlow New Town which takes full advantage of the existing contours and planting. Designer: Sylvia Crowe.



Playgrounds acknowledgement

Acknowledgement for the use of photographs, plans and other material: Parks Departments of Amsterdam, Copenhagen, London and Stockholm; Harlow Development Corporation; the National Playing Fields Association; the Royal Danish Embassy; The Nursery Schools Association; Picture Post Library; the Borough of St. Pancras; Lady Allen of Hurtwood; Miss Sylvia Crowe and Noel Musgrave Esq. A few of the photographs were taken by the author.



DESIGN BY GARDNER ERTMAN, EDINBURGH, AWARDED EUROPEAN PRIZE OF £2,500

Canadian Home of Tomorrow Competition

THIS Competition was open to architects and students in Canada and Western Europe. The judges finally considered more than 650 designs and selected 13 of this number for main prizes and honourable mentions.

Professor Gio Ponti, of Milan, made the following comments:

"Many of the projects have a long, low appearance which is somehow in the nature of much of the Canadian landscape.

"Those projects most distinguished by simplicity, seriousness, truthfulness, at the same time rigorous and polite, by a disciplined taste, having harmony in colour, sure, yet delicate

and lively, appeared from a study of the conditions to be in the æsthetic spirit of the competition.

"Nevertheless, other projects testify to further different and lively solutions arising from the fact that the competition is an episode in which ideas for the future can be presented, from all of which a lively development of

[Continued on page 57]

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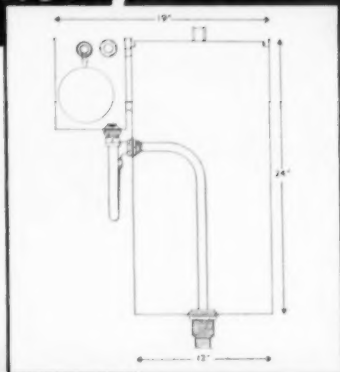
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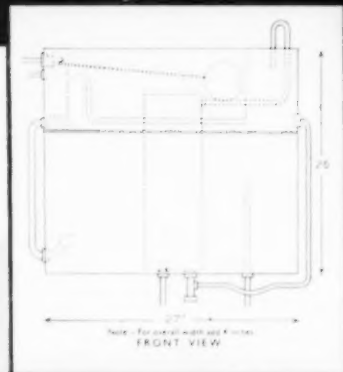
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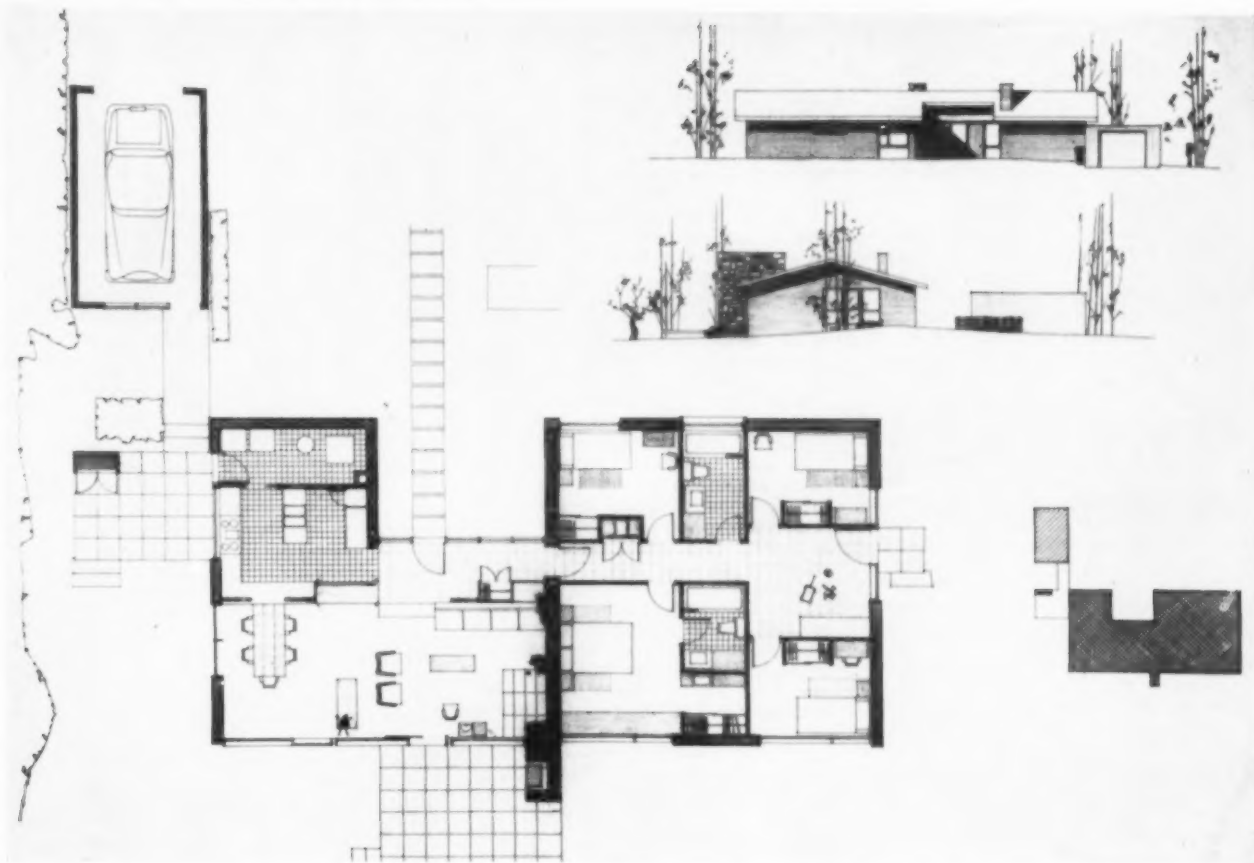
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domestic architecture in Canada might be derived. These cannot be limited to certain types, but display a wealth of different solutions of great human and architectural significance.

"From an ideal and formative position, the jury has agreed that in the first category mentioned, the project that presents the most significant values architecturally, having an essential simplicity, a coherent form, impeccable taste, an ordered, intimate, calm, even austere, interpretation of family life and providing completely for the individual interests of members of a family, was presented by Knud Harboe of Denmark, to whom the International Calvert House Award was made.

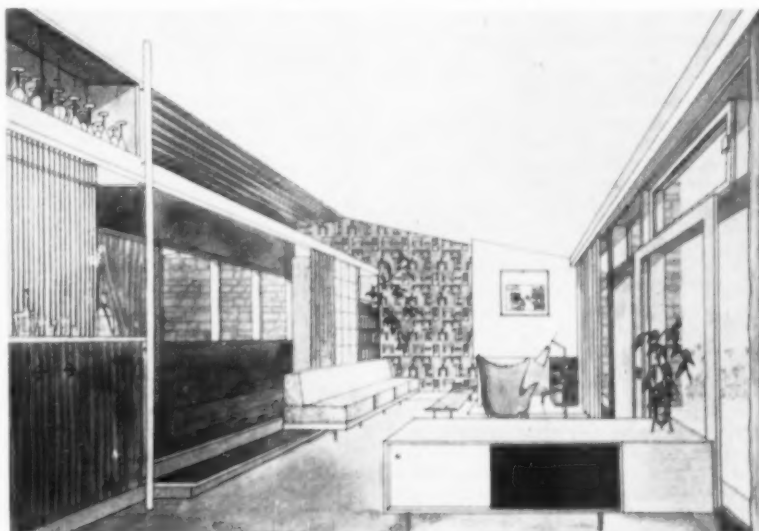
"Besides this remarkable proposal, two other projects attracted the lively attention of the jury, one by Geoffrey Hacker, of Winnipeg, the other by Gardner Ertman, of Edinburgh. To these two outstanding projects, the first on account of a special grace in the simplicity of the pleasant and ingenious plan, and the second because of the tasteful development of the expression of a quiet family life, the jury has recommended respectively, the Calvert House Canadian and European awards.

"In these distinguished projects the jury has recognized primarily a high

degree of simplicity and style, a very human interpretation of the life of a family in both moral and spiritual terms which is given by the intimacy of the first, while in the other two it is given by a brave confidence with life outside, more lively in one and more calm in the other."

Honourable mention awards, other than those in Canada, were: Jean-

Louis Lalonde, Paris; Hans Scasny, Vienna; Jelle Abma, Amsterdam; Eric Defty, A.R.I.B.A. (England), now studying at Harvard University, Boston; Thomas Barron Gourlay, London; Richard S. Soderlind, Denmark; Geoffrey Michael Fullman, Berkshire; and John Donald Cordwell, A.R.I.B.A. (England), now studying in Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.



LIBRARY NOTES

"Angelica"

By Adeline Hartcup. Heinemann.
Price 21s.

OTHER biographies being out of print it is useful, in this well-written though not very profound volume, to have available the facts of a much-lionized lady artist's cosmopolitan career. A Swiss of German origin, but of Italian adoption and artistic training, Angelica Kauffmann found it easy to move gracefully along the paths of international eighteenth-century culture. Artistically speaking, her home was the Italy which saw the last sugary decadence of Baroque. Commercially she found it convenient to sojourn, at various times, in Germany, Switzerland, and in several cities of Italy. Like many other foreign artists of the second flight she had her spell in England, being in London for fifteen years. Eventually she lived long, and as a rule prosperously, as a leading member of the Roman artist colony which never moved far, whether uphill or down towards the river, from the Spanish Steps. Her career was of much more brilliance than her talents, and apart from the astonishingly silly blunder of her first matrimonial experiment, this daughter of a Swiss journeyman painter (in England he would have done coach panels and inn signs) easily became a well-known figure in the world of portraiture and decoration. She hit exactly on what was wanted by international High Society; as the general level of taste was good, even where it was unventuresome, the results were charming though never masterpieces. One has, however, to bear in mind that a woman artist, though gaining much in those days from her scarcity value (this factor, along with her good looks, was clearly decisive for Angelica Kauffmann's success), was also much hampered by a prudish veto on her sketching from the nude. Angelica Kauffmann was widely cultured, and her gifts included considerable musical ability. Indeed, she nearly made her career in music; had she opted, in 1760, for a musician's life one imagines that her success might have been not unlike that of Mozart, had the young Mozart been a girl with a quarter of the actual Mozart's genius. There is also something about the devout Angelica Kauffmann which subtly reminds me of the success of her contemporary Hannah More; the two could have met, and both were simultaneously the good friends of Reynolds.

Architects, of course, are chiefly interested in Angelica Kauffmann as a decorator whose work, less in reality than by attribution, embellished many ceilings, walls and fireplaces of the "Adam" school. Mrs. Hartcup also reminds us of the interesting fact that she might, in 1773, have been one of the painters commissioned to decorate

the interior of St. Paul's. But on the general corpus of Angelica Kauffmann's "architectural" painting this biography is disappointingly slight, nor does the author take enough account of her heroine's relationship to the general achievement of our English eighteenth-century wall painting. She thus says nothing on the earlier Georgian period, or on that of Inigo Jones and later seventeenth-century artists, when considerably more virile and effective work was done by such Baroque artists as Verrio, Thornhill and Hogarth. It would also have been of interest had she told us whether Angelica Kauffmann drew any inspiration from Tiepolo, whose painting forms so important a link between the full-blooded *seicento* and the exponents of neoclassicism. One is often struck, in a biography which does much to enlighten us, and whose picture of Angelica Kauffmann's later years in Naples and Rome is particularly good, by a certain lack of depth pervading this book's approach. For instance, when dealing with her artist's devoutly practised Roman Catholicism, Mrs. Hartcup takes too little account of the true position of Roman Catholics, particularly those who were foreigners, in Georgian London. With several Embassy Chapels publicly at work there were few impediments, till the Gordon Riots shortly before Angelica Kauffmann left England for good, in the way either of Mass or of Catholic marriage, and one of these Chapels was very close to the painter's home in Golden Square.

BRYAN LITTLE.

Pencil Techniques in Modern Design

By Atkin, Corbelletti and Fiore.
Reinhold Publishing Corporation,
New York. Price £3 6s; 8.25 dollars.

PENCIL rendering in this country has unfortunately fallen into disfavour but, as the authors of this publication state, the pencil is still the architect's most used tool. Those who complain that pencil rendering does not properly convey the spirit of their buildings will find that the illustrations in this book prove the complete reverse.

The book is divided into two parts—Part 1, Presentation techniques, and Part 2, How to render in pencil. Part 1, whilst it will undoubtedly interest the student, is intended primarily for the practising architect. Anyone who has the slightest desire to be able to render in pencil will, after studying this section, be found to take pencil in hand and I venture to suggest succeed with perseverance. An interesting portion of this part is devoted to rendering for printing processes.

Part 2 on how to render deals with materials, strokes, composition, perspectives, shadows and thumbnail sketches to finished rendering.

This book is lavishly illustrated, not

merely for the sake of illustrating, but for the purpose of conveying to both architect and student the methods of achieving the best results. No pains have been spared to obtain illustrations to assist the would-be pencil artist.

Without doubt this is one of the most comprehensive books produced on pencil rendering within recent years. It is to be hoped that it will assist in bringing back into vogue the use of the pencil as a medium for illustration purposes.

An Approach to Planning

By T. H. B. Burroughs. Pitman.
Price 21s.

TITLES have to be short, and in the shortening thereof they can become misleading. This is the case with this book. Planning in this case refers to buildings and not to the wider aspect of town planning. The author has dealt with the first principles of planning a building in three dimensions. The subject matter has been presented in the form of informal lectures accompanied by simple yet easily remembered illustrations, or as the author states, "scribbles on the blackboard."

Students should find this book of interest from the angle of historical evolution and also as a guide on how to set about planning a building. As the author states, he has suggested in the book what the student should think about when commencing to plan a building and how he should develop, step by step, throughout the whole process of planning. Students, as he quite rightly points out, forget they are planning a building and not planning a plan.

Municipal Engineering Administration and Organization

By Rodney S. Offord. Contractors Record, Ltd. Price 25s.

THE Municipal Engineer and Surveyor is a man of many parts, serving authorities large and small, with varying powers and duties. Qualified as he is in municipal engineering and in the art of surveying, he still lacks that little extra that his job requires if he is not skilled in administration. Today the chief technical officer in any large authority must be both an administrator and a tactician.

This book deals with the administrative problems that arise in a municipal engineering department. It also deals with the financial and economic aspects. A most interesting and instructive book which fills a long-felt need and should awaken an interest in a side of engineering which the younger members do not appreciate until they find themselves in executive positions.

This book may very soon become a

(Continued on page 59)

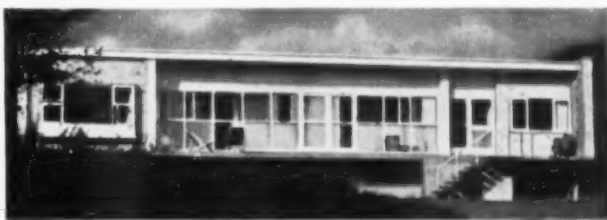
ZINC



TERRACE HOUSES AT COWLEY PEACHEY. Architects—F. R. S. Yorke, F.R.I.B.A., E. Rosenberg, F.R.I.B.A.; C. S. Mardall, A.R.I.B.A.

Flashings and hoods, rainwater goods and weatherings — from roof to foundations zinc plays an important part in building. Our illustrations show contemporary houses roofed with zinc laid on the standing seam system. The roofing of the Cowley Peachey houses has an added interest because it has been laid on insulation boarding to combine good insulation with lasting protection.

in Zn



HOUSE AT LUCCOMBE, I.O.W. View from South-west. Architect and owner—F. R. S. Yorke, F.R.I.B.A.

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View of standing seam zinc roofing.

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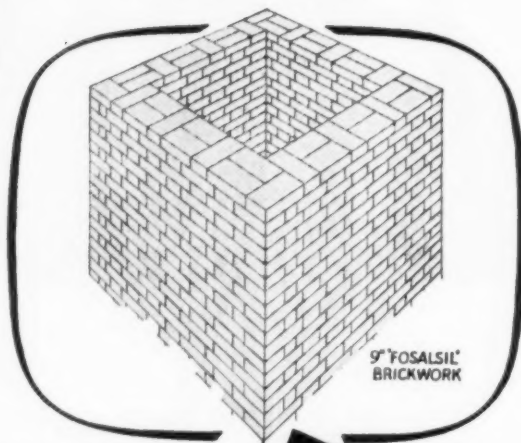
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The Housing Estate Garden

By S. J. Poole. Collingridge. Price 7s 6d.

THERE'S a scarcity of land in our small island, the home of 52 million people. Every week many new council houses are built upon the good land of this island, so taking it away from agriculture for ever. Is this fact appreciated by the majority of council house tenants? If the gardens of these houses were cultivated intensively the present loss to the nation's larder could be turned, with good husbandry, to a credit balance. As Mr. Poole quite rightly states, there is a moral obligation on tenants to cultivate their gardens to the best of their ability, even though there may not exist a tenancy clause to enforce it.

Mr. Poole has written this book from practical experience, for the tenants and owners of small gardens. The chapters are well chosen, the presentation of the subject matter clear and understandable, a point which is not to be found in all gardening books; also the illustrations are informative. This book, by example, should help those council house tenants who keep their gardens but have not the knowledge to turn their small plot into a profitable and enjoyable feature.

Early Melbourne Architecture, 1840-1880

Oxford Press. Price 40s.

THIS photographic record has been compiled by a group of distinguished Melbourne people, their object being to place on record a representative section of Melbourne's early buildings, whilst they still remain in their original state. Like many other cities, Melbourne has changed and will continue to change, and as the years go by this book will be an important record of the architectural career of early Melbourne.

The introduction and introductory notes at the beginning of each of the five sections present a historical background which adds interest to the excellent photographs of the individual buildings and will surely awaken the interest of the citizens of Melbourne in their historical heritage.

A most interesting publication and one which may well become a model for other cities to follow in the Commonwealth and in the British Isles.

A Metal Window Dictionary

By W. F. Crittall. Batsford. Price 15s.

THIS dictionary of 82 pages is intended for the guidance of trainees, architectural students and builders in the nomenclature of terms used in metal window manufacture and installation. The writer does not claim to have covered the whole field of window manufacture but there appear to be very few terms omitted between

Acorn and Zintex in this booklet. The grey line drawings which illustrate many of the terms are simple yet explain the terms most effectively.

Appendices—Foreign language equivalents; torsional resistance of steel; aluminium section; and notes on anodizing.

The Quarterly

R.I.A.S. Journal. Spring Issue.

CONTAINS notes on R.I.A.S. Pension Fund & Life Assurance Scheme; the vexed question of overtime in building industry; interesting memoir by A. J. Massie on "Tradition in Stone in N.E. of Scotland" and notes on reconstruction of Fisher's Close, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh.

Laxton's Builders' Price Book, 1954

Edited by P. T. Walters, F.R.I.C.S.; publishers, Kelly's Directories, Ltd., 186, Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 30s net.

THE whole of the prices in this edition, the 127th, have been revised and incorporate the increased wages which became operative on May 24, 1954, and much additional information has been incorporated.

The basis upon which the prices are built up is explained in the Preliminary and General Section, which also includes data for assessing the value of some of those expenses which vary with the nature of the contract and situation of the site and therefore are not normally included in the unit prices.

Each trade or major group of prices is preceded by the basic prices of materials upon which they are calculated. This facilitates adjustments necessitated by variations in the cost of materials.

Percentages have been at the end of each group of prices, representing the effect of a penny variation in the basic wage rate, by means of which prices can be adjusted for wage grades other than London or for any revisions that may come into operation during the currency of this edition.

The current wage rates and gradings for most towns are given, with relevant extracts from the London Working Rule Agreement and the latest National Schedule of Daywork Charges, Professional Scales of Fees and Charges, and other useful data and memoranda are included as usual.

An important part of the book, containing 272 pages, is the list of brands and trade names printed on blue paper for ease of reference and containing over 11,000 items, together with a separate alphabetical list of names and addresses, etc., of firms connected therewith.

This short summary of the salient features of the new edition will be sufficient to show that the 1954 edition of this standard work of reference offers to all interested in the building trade a price book giving them just what they need in an extremely help-

ful and practical form and fully maintaining the reputation for reliability built up over many years.

Concrete Farm Structures

By A. M. Pennington. Concrete Publications, Ltd., London. Price 12s.

AGRICULTURAL buildings have been sadly neglected as far as literature, other than Ministerial publications, is concerned. Edwin Gunn appreciated this fact but it must be over 20 years since he published his excellent book on the subject. Since then concrete has come to play a more prominent part in rural building and therefore this book, which deals in a simple and practical manner with both the design and construction of farm buildings in precast concrete, is a very welcome addition to the all-too-scanty literature on this important subject.

The text is explicit and is very well illustrated with plans and sections and covers every type of building found on a farm, whether arable, dairy or even smallholding.

A suggestion for a future edition might be that the chapter dealing with "Planning of Farms," which is the last in the book should be enlarged and take its proper place as the opening chapter.

Pencil Drawing for the Architect

By Charles I. Hobbs, A.R.I.B.A., F.R.S.A. Turanti, London. Price 6s (cloth 7s 6d).

THE author's object in writing this book has been to instruct the architectural student in the art of free-hand pencil drawing, a subject which has unfortunately lost popularity with many students in favour of the camera.

This book is made up of 64 drawings mainly by the author, but pencil drawings by Constable, Colman, Griggs and Pugin, to mention but a few, are also to be found. Under each drawing the author has descriptive captions in an effort to explain points on each drawing and as a guide to the student in principles to look for in the technique.

Some delightful drawings. A future edition might well include some measured drawings and also some build-ups of some of the author's sketches.

BOOKS RECEIVED

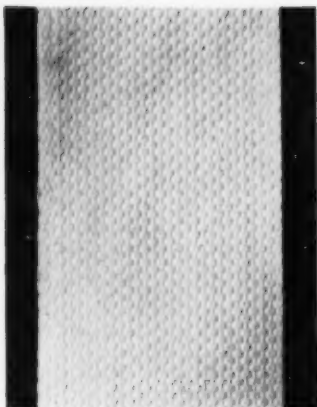
The Amplification and Distribution of Sound, by A. E. Greenlees. Published by Chapman & Hall. Price 35s.

The Architect and the Law, by Richard Body. Published by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Clarke's Tables and Memoranda for Plumbers, Builders, Sanitary, Heating, Electrical Engineers, etc. Published by B. T. Batsford, Ltd. Price 8s 6d.

The Department Store, by H. Pasdermanjian. Published by Newman Books, Ltd. Price 16s.

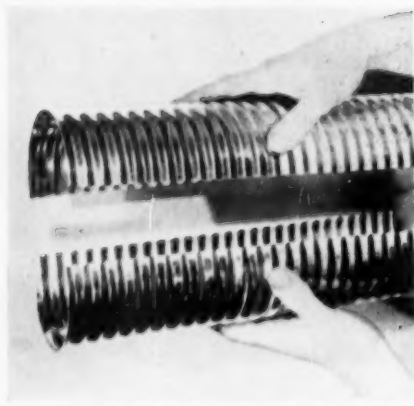
Encyclopædia Typographica, Part I, by A. J. Bastien. Published by The Typographical Centre. Price 63s.



MOSAICS

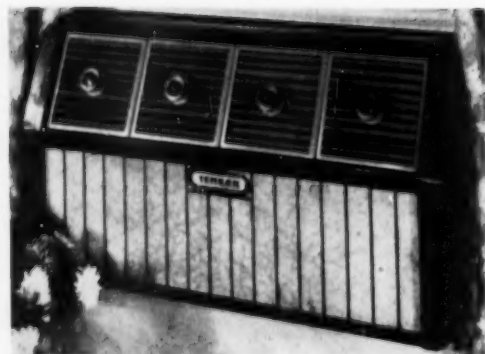
FINISHES PLASTICS DS 4

Thomas French & Sons Ltd. manufacturers of "Rufflette" curtain products are now producing "Fleurette" a plastic coated ladder web for Venetian blinds. It is made from Egyptian yarn with warp and weft threads in both the main tapes and in the rungs. The two outer surfaces are coated with plastic, which greatly increases longitudinal tear resistance. The web is washable and can be scrubbed in hot water; for general purposes it only needs wiping down with a damp cloth. It is available in duck, white, pastel blue and green. The illustration is actual size.



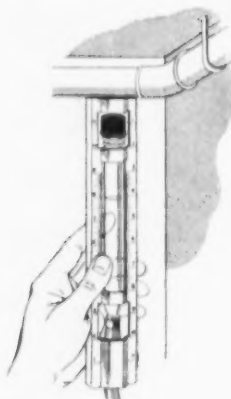
SERVICES PLUMBING B4 22

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SERVICES VENTILATION B2 20

Temperature Ltd., of Burlington Road, Fulham, S.W.6, have introduced an addition to their line of room air-conditioning units. This latest model is powered by a 1 h.p. hermetically sealed, twin cylinder compressor motor set. It is arranged for capacitor start and run and operates on Freon 22. An air-cooled condenser is included. Air filtration is through a filter of woven glass fibre, having an area of 220 sq in. Heating, cooling or ventilation only may be selected by means of a selector switch and a built-in thermostat provides for automatic operation.



PLANT HAND TOOLS E3 33

One of the latest additions to the "Aqualuv" builders level is the Aqualuv, a metal plate exactly 12in long, graduated from both top and bottom in inches and sixteenths, and made so that they can be instantly clipped on to each indicator tube. When they are so attached the ends of the Aqualuv are placed on or under the points whose levels are being compared and the exact distance of the surface of liquid from the ends of the rules is read. Made by Austin and Trimmingham, 58 Warwick Gardens, London, W.14.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

● A move to improve industrial productivity in this country is being made at a new type of trade exhibition sponsored by the Institute of Production Engineers, which opened at Olympia on July 7. It is called The Production Exhibition and, instead of selling as the principal factor, exhibitors will reveal the methods they have developed within their own organizations to raise production to a higher level of efficiency.

The Ministry of Supply, on a 700 sq ft stand, are showing new industrial techniques and devices, originated in the Ministry's Establishments or devised in co-operation with the manufacturers.

● The July issue of our associated journal, *Mechanical Handling*, will be a greatly enlarged special number giving a complete report of the highly successful 4th Mechanical Handling Exhibition and Convention organized by that journal at Olympia last month.

● At a recent meeting of the Council of the English Joinery Manufacturers' Association, with the President, Mr. W. E. Adams, J.P., in the chair, the Mid-Sussex Timber Co. (East Grinstead), Ltd., of Railway Approach, East Grinstead, Sussex, were elected members.

Amongst other matters considered by the Council were the revision of certain British Standard specifications, the revised specification for E.J.M.A. Standard double hung windows with cased and solid frames, the quality of softwood joinery timber, and the quality of workmanship in joinery.

It was agreed that—emergencies excepted—the next meeting of the Council should be held on September 30, 1954.

● The Acme Flooring and Paving Co. (1904), Limited, River Road, Barking, Essex, were awarded many medals in the years 1886 and 1887, and want to reproduce a replica of those awarded by the Society of Architects, but are unable to find the originals. They would be grateful for any information from other firms who have been awarded these particular medals.

● Mr. Wilfred Lionel Bone, Foreman of Messrs. R. G. Carter, Ltd., Builders and Contractors, Drayton, Norwich and Great Yarmouth, received the B.E.M. in this year's Birthday Honours.

● Exfoliators (Vermiculite), Ltd., of Welwyn Garden City, have changed their name to Dupré Vermiculite (Exfoliators), Ltd. Their commercial vermiculite for the building trade will now be described as Dupré Vermiculite instead of Palabora Vermiculite.

● The new headquarters of the Hunting Group of Companies is now at Norwich House, 4, Dunraven Street, Park Lane, W.1. Hunting Aerasurveys (Holdings), Limited, have also transferred their offices to Norwich House. Telephone: Hyde Park 9781.

● "Education and Training in the Field of Management," Volume II, is now available from the British Institute of Management, Management House, 8, Hill Street, W.1. Price 3s 6d.

Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work, (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

CONTRACT • NEWS •

OPEN

BUILDING

AYLESBURY R.C. (a) 24 dwellings, Long Crenon. (b) R. C. White, 4, Temple Square. (c) 3gns. (e) July 20.

BEDFORDSHIRE C.C. (a) Completion of 12 police houses which are partly erected, Wickstead Avenue, Luton. (b) County Architect, Shire Hall, Bedford. (d) July 12.

BIRMINGHAM C.C.—(a) 4 2-storey flats, Folliott Road, Lea Hall. (b) City Architect, Civic Centre, 1. (d) July 12. (e) Aug. 9.

BOURNEMOUTH B.C. (a) 24 houses, Kinson Estate. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) July 20.

BRIDLINGTON B.C. (a) 30 houses, West Hill Estate. (b) Messrs. Clifford E. Culpin, 3, Southampton Place, London, W.C.1. (c) 3gns. (e) Aug. 5.

BRIGHOUSE B.C. (a) 2 houses, River Street. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Commercial Street. (e) July 17.

DOCKING R.C. (a) 1 house and 1 pair of houses at The Mount, Docking. (b) Housing Officer, Council Offices, Docking, King's Lynn. (c) 2gns. (e) July 20.

DONCASTER B.C. (a) 2 shops and 2 flats, Crompton Road. (b) Borough Architect, 15, South Parade. (c) 2gns. (e) July 19.

EASTBOURNE B.C. (a) (1) 3-storey block of 16 flats and 2 shops, Langney Village, Section 14; (2) 3-storey block of 12 flats, junction of Victoria Drive and Central Avenue. (b) Borough Surveyor, 2, Saffrons Road. (c) 2gns. (d) July 22.

EAST RIDING C.C. (a) Alterations and re-equipment of canteen kitchen, Bridlington High School for Girls. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Beverley. (c) £2. (e) July 19.

GILLINGHAM B.C. (a) 151 dwellings in pairs and terraces, Twydale/Beechings Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings. (c) 5gns. (e) July 26.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE C.C. (a) Secondary modern school, Bitton. (b) County Architect, Shire Hall, Gloucester. (d) July 14.

GOOLE R.C. (a) 4 houses, Adlingfleet. (b) Messrs. Fisher, Hollingsworth and Kelsey, National Provincial Bank Chambers, Boothferry Road. (c) 1gn. (e) July 19.

HAMBLEDON R.C. (a) 4 pairs of houses and 3 pairs of houses, Clappers Meadow site, Alfold. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Bury Fields, Guildford. (c) 3gns. (e) July 21.

HEREFORDSHIRE C.C. (a) Workshop block, hose-drying tower and attendant site works, New Fire Brigade Headquarters, St. Owen Street, Hereford. (b) Messrs. Nicol, Nicol and Thomas, White House, 111, New Street, Birmingham. (c) 2gns. (d) July 10. (e) Aug. 11.

address it is the same as the locality given in the heading, (c) deposit, (d) last date for application, (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked ★ are given in the advertisement section

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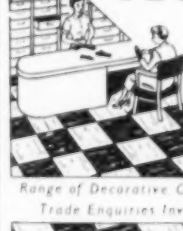
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LEEDS REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD. (a) Single-storey villa for 40 patients at Brandesburton Hall Hospital, Brandesburton, Driffield. (b) Architect to the Board, Park Parade, Harrogate. (c) 2gns. (d) July 14.

LONDON—WEST HAM B.C. (a) 12 flats and 22 maisonettes, Queen's Road, E.13. (b) Borough Architect, 70, West Ham Lane, E.15. (c) 2gns. (d) July 10.

LONDON—WOOD GREEN B.C. (a) 1 block of 6 flats and 1 block of 3 flats in Ellenborough and New Roads, and 2 blocks of 6 flats and 1 house in Granville Road and Lordship Lane, N.22. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, N.22. (c) 2gns each contract. (e) July 28.

MACCLESFIELD B.C. (a) 40 houses, Hurdfield. (b) Borough Architect, 3, Jordangate. (c) 2gns. (e) July 26.

NEWCASTLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD. (a) New X-ray Department at the Children's Hospital, Sunderland. (b) Secretary to the Board, "Dunira," Osborne Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2. (d) July 16.

NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. (a) Conversion of part of the Mansion House, Nonsuch Park, into 2 flats. (b) Surveyor to the Committee, Town Hall, Epsom. (c) 3gns. (e) July 19.

NORFOLK C.C. (a) Alterations and additions of new classrooms at Redenhall Junior Voluntary Aided School. (b) J. Fletcher Watson, Pulls Ferry, The Close, Norwich.

NORFOLK C.C. (a) Minor alterations to East Dereham Police Station and Dersingham Police Station. (b) County Architect, 27, Thorpe Road, Norwich. (d) July 13. (e) Aug. 10.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE C.C. (a) District nurses' house, Burton Latimer. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Northampton. (d) July 13.

NORTHERN IRELAND HOSPITAL AUTHORITY. (a) Adaptations and alterations at Braid Valley Hospital, Ballymena. (b) Messrs. T. Houston and Partners, 26, College Gardens, Belfast. (c) £5. (e) Aug. 11.

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING TRUST. (a) 71 houses with engineering and ancillary works, Crossgar Road, Ballynahinch. (b) Trust Offices, 12, Hope Street, Belfast. (c) £3. (e) July 30.

NORTHFLEET U.C. (a) Community hall, Coldharbour Road Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (e) July 20.

NORWICH C.C. (a) 106 garages on 8 sites in Norwich, varying from 2 to 30 garages on each site. (b) City Architect, City Hall. (e) July 19.

OLDHAM B.C. (a) Hostel for aged persons, Limeside Housing Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, 75, Union Street. (c) 2gns. (e) July 21.

PEMBROKESHIRE C.C. (a) Additions and alterations for conversion of The Manse, Warren Street, Tenby, into a clinic and nurses' home. (b) County Architect, County Offices, Haverfordwest. (c) 2gns. (e) July 17.

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PLOUGHLEY R.C. (a) Construction of Council Depot and Yard, Highfield House, Bicester. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Waverley House, Bicester. (c) £2. (e) July 16.

ROTHWELL U.C. (a) 100 houses, Wood Lane site. (b) Messrs. R. A. Easdale and Son, County Chambers, Bradley Street, Castleford. (c) 2gns. (e) July 24.

SAINT THOMAS R.C. (a) 3 houses at Exminster, 16 at Honiton Clist and 4 at Woodbury. (b) Messrs. Lucas, Roberts and Brown, Barnfield Hill, Exeter. (c) (for Exminster) July 9, (for Honiton Clist and Woodbury) July 23.

SCOTLAND — DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY HOSPITAL BOARD. (a) Boilerhouse at the Royal Infirmary, Dumfries, to include new access road and site levelling. (b) M. Purdom Smith, 33, Castle Street, Dumfries. (e) July 19. (Separate trades.)

SCOTLAND—GLASGOW C.C. (a) Houses on following sites at Castlemilk: —(1) Unit No. 2—336 houses; (2) Unit No. 3—372 houses; (3) Unit No. 3—398 houses. (b) Architectural and Planning Dept., 22, Trongate, Glasgow, C.1. (e) July 29.

SCOTTISH SPECIAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION, LTD. (a) All or separate trades for erection of 60 space-saving houses at Cunningham Site, Tillycultry. (b) Scottish Special Housing Association, Ltd., 15-21, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, 12.

SHEFFIELD C.C. (a) A classroom hutment at College of Commerce, Newbould Lane. (b) City Architect, Town Hall, 1. (c) £2. (e) July 16.

SHERBORNE U.C. (a) Alterations and additions to Nos. 1-6, inclusive, Chrysanthemum Row, Newland, Sherborne. (b) Messrs. Petter, Warren and Roydon Cooper, The Old Oxford Inn, West Hendford, Yeovil. (c) £2. (d) July 16. (e) Aug. 6.

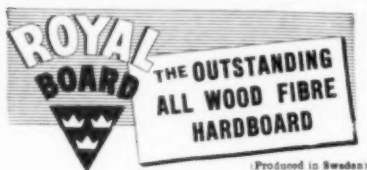
SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON U.C. (a) Block of 5 shops with 10 maisonettes over, Canterbury Road Housing Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, High Street, Sittingbourne. (e) July 22.

SOMERSET E.C. (a) Bridgwater Secondary Modern School (360 places). (b) Chief Education Officer, Trull Road, Taunton. (c) 2gns. (d) July 10.

TOWYN (MERIONETHSHIRE). (a) Vestry room and caretaker's house at Bethel C.M. Chapel. (b) H. T. Davies, Secretary to the Building Committee of Bethel C.M. Chapel, Cremllyn, Towyn. (c) 3gns. (e) July 17.

WALSALL B.C. (a) New lavatory and cloakroom and reinstatement of kitchen at Queen Mary's Girls' High School. (b) Borough Engineer, Council House. (c) 2gns. (e) July 19.

WEST RIDING C.C. (a) Caretaker's house on the site of the Grimethorpe Secondary School. (b) County Architect, "Bishopgarth," Westfield Road, Wakefield. (c) 1gn. (e) July 19.



(Produced in Sweden)



PLACED

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work, (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. † denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL. (1) Superstructure of blocks of flats. (2) Friary Estate, Camberwell. (3) Unit Construction Co., Ltd., Feltham, Middlesex. (4) £125,989. (1) Two blocks of flats. (2) Dorian Estate, Stepney. (3) J. M. Hill and Sons, Ltd., Wembley. (4) £69,420.

SUNDERLAND R.D.C. (1) 98 houses. (2) Ryhope. (3) Direct labour. (4) £117,671.

ESTON (YORKS) U.D.C. (1) 46 houses. (2) Redcar Road East. (3) G. H. Rogers, North Road, Middlesbrough. (4) £60,760.

ASHBY R.D.C. (1) 102 houses and flats. (2) Peggs Close, Measham. (3) Drury and Co., Ltd., The Grange, Wigstone Fields, Leicester. (4) £139,078 with £27,583 site works.

BATHAVON (SOM) R.D.C. (1) 34 houses. (2) Corston. (3) J. W. M. Moon, 15, Lansdown View, Timsbury, Som. (4) £50,868.

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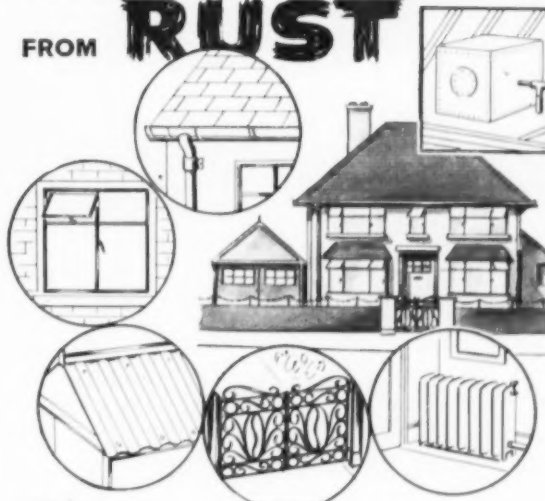
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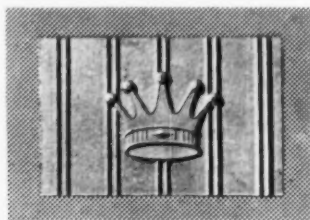
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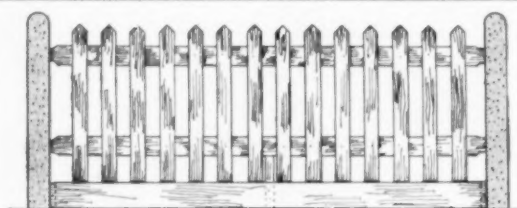
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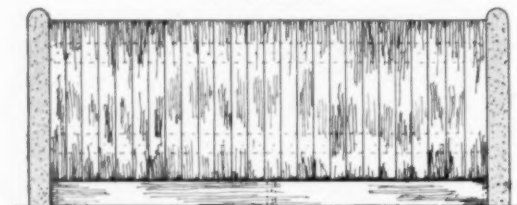
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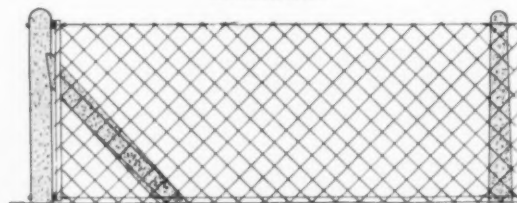
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BOROUGH OF HARROW.

BOROUGH ENGINEER & SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

(ARCHITECTS' SECTION.)

APPLICATIONS are invited for the under-mentioned appointment:
ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, A.P.T., Grade IV. Salary £580-£625 per annum, plus London "weighting." The duties include the preparation of drawings and specifications, and supervision of works on new buildings and works of maintenance and repair.

The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Acts, to the passing of a medical examination, and to the National Joint Council's Scheme of Conditions of Service.

The Corporation are unable to assist in obtaining housing accommodation.

Forms of application may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom they should be returned not later than Thursday, 22nd July, 1954.

D. H. PRITCHARD,
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,
Harrow Weald Lodge,
Harrow,
Middx.

[8104]

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT Grade IV (£580-£625) in the County Architect's Department. Candidates should have had office experience and have reached R.I.B.A. Intermediate Standard or have recently completed a recognised architectural course.

Opportunity will be given to obtain varied experience in Local Government work or to specialise.

Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from J. T. Castle, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., Wilton House, Parkside Road, Reading, to whom they should be returned not later than Wednesday, 21st July, 1954.

E. R. DAVIES,
Clerk of the Council.

[8123]

BOROUGH OF JARROW.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of CHIEF ASSISTANT ARCHITECT at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grade VIII of the National Scale of Salaries. Applicants must be Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects and should have had experience in the design and construction of houses and flats and the redevelopment of central areas.

The appointment will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Acts, 1937 and 1953, and a satisfactory medical examination.

Applications, stating qualifications, age, particulars of experience, together with the names of two persons to whom reference can be made as to character and ability, to be forwarded to the undersigned by Friday, 23rd July, 1954.

Housing accommodation will be provided if necessary.

Canvassing will disqualify and applicants must state whether they are related to any member or senior officer of the Council.

M. L. ROTHFIELD,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Jarrow,
30th June, 1954.

[8117]

APPOINTMENTS—contd.

BASILDON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following posts on the staff of the Chief Architect/Planner, Noel Tweddell, A.R.I.B.A.:—

(a) GRADE II PLANNER, salary £1,135-£1,340.
(b) GRADE III ARCHITECT, salary £860-£1,110.

(c) GRADE IVB ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, salary £760-£860.

(d) GRADE IVA ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, salary £660-£760.

(e) GRADE VB, JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, £560-£610.

The successful applicant for post (a) will take charge of the planning and design team for the immediate development of the New Town Centre to serve a population of 80,000. Candidates must have had a good architectural training, and town planning qualifications are desirable. Experience of this type of work is essential.

The successful applicant for post (b) will be required to take charge of a Group in the Housing Section and must have considerable experience in design and supervision of large housing contracts and all stages of contract management to completion of final accounts.

The applicants for posts (c) and (d) must have experience in house design, preparation of working drawings and supervision of contracts. Experience in Town Planning will also be available to suitably qualified applicants.

Applicants for posts (a) to (d) must have a professional qualification in Architecture.

The commencing salary within each grade will be in accordance with experience and ability. All appointments are subject to the provisions of the Local Government and Other Officers Superannuation Act, and medical examination.

House accommodation in the New Town may be available.

Applications must be made on the special form (obtainable from the Chief Architect) to the General Manager, Basildon Development Corporation, Gifford House, Basildon, Essex, by 20th July, 1954, and the envelope endorsed with the relevant appointment.

[8121]

HAMPSHIRE.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of ASSISTANT ARCHITECT Grade VII (£735-£810) in the County Architect's Department. Candidates must be Registered Architects, preferably A.R.I.B.A., with good general experience in the design and construction of Public Buildings.

The appointment is pensionable, subject to satisfactory medical report, and will be terminable by three months' notice on either side. In approved cases the County Council is prepared to assist newly appointed staff to meet removal and other expenses.

Applications should be made on forms to be obtained from the County Architect, The Castle, Winchester, to whom they should be returned by the 24th July.

[8122]

OFFICE OF THE RECEIVER.

FOR THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DISTRICT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for temporary appointments as DRAUGHTSMEN in the Architect and Surveyor's Department to deal with the construction of Police houses and flats, stations and section houses.

Rate of pay: £420 (at age 21) to £670 (men) and £390 (women).

Hours: 44 per week.

Annual Leave: 24 days.

Application forms from the Chief Clerk, Architect and Surveyor's Department, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1, for return by Friday, 23rd July, 1954.

[8116]

APPOINTMENTS—contd.

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Candidates should be F or A.R.I.B.A., preferably with degree or equivalent diploma, and should have senior experience in a Technical College, University or professional school. In the present early stage of development, organization and equipment will be first requirements. It is hoped to appoint Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers early in 1955 and to accept first students later that year.

Salary scale (including temporary c.o.l.a.) £1,850 × £50-£2,050 p.a. or slightly lower for transferred staff wishing to retain Col. Govt. pension rights. (Scale quoted is for staff who would contribute to proposed College pensions scheme or maintain existing rights under e.g., F.S.S.U. or Ministry of Education, with College paying employer's contribution.) Appointment would be made for one tour of 24-36 months in first instance with view to permanency. Partly furnished house or flat will be provided, rent £150 p.a. Staff may be required to live in hotel in first instance and would receive allowance towards additional expenses. Free first-class passages to and from Kenya will be provided for person appointed and wife, and up to equivalent of one adult fare for dependent children under 21. Leave on full salary at rate of four days for each month's resident service.

Write for further information to Secretary, Advisory Committee on Colonial Colleges of Arts, Science and Technology, 1, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1. Closing date for applications (six copies) 20th July, 1954.

[8109]

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT required by the GOVERNMENT OF KENYA, P.W.D. for one tour of 40/48 months in the first instance. Salary scale (including present temporary allowance of 35% of salary) £904 rising to £1,134 a year. Commencing salary according to war service and experience. Gratuity of 13% of total basic salary drawn during contract. Outfit allowance £30. Liberal leave on full salary. Candidates must be capable of working up sketch designs and preparing full working drawings for various types of Government buildings. Actual experience in an architect's office and a sound knowledge of building construction are essential. Write to the Crown Agents, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1. State age, name in block letters, full qualifications and experience and quote M2B/30661/AF.

[8125]

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[8127]

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ARCHITECTURAL Assistant required. Intermediate standard, with some office experience, for small, busy practice.—Shaw & Lloyd, F.R.I.B.A., 74, Great Russell St., W.C.1. Museum 9693. [8128]

THREE Assistant Architects required in London Office for preparation of working drawings and site supervision of College buildings. Salaries according to experience.—Write full particulars, Box 6424. [8118]

ARCHITECTS with degree and with civil engineering inclinations are invited to send full particulars and in return will receive information about an attractive appointment.—Box 6287. [8096]

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B.C.C. requires architectural assistants in London with at least two years' design office experience; must have passed Inter. R.I.B.A. Salary £545 (higher if qualifications and experience exceptional) rising by five annual increments to £755 max.; promotion prospects.—Applications to E.E.O., B.B.C., London, W.1, within week, quoting ref. E.963, A.B.N. [8111]

ARCHITECTURAL Staff required for wide range of work in Architects' Department of George Wimpey & Co., Ltd., Hammersmith. Salaries £500-£900 per annum dependent upon experience and ability. Appointments will be on a permanent basis.—Applications, giving brief particulars of experience and qualifications, to be addressed to Staff Architect, George Wimpey & Co., Ltd., 27, Hammersmith Grove, W.6. [8081]

ARCHITECTURAL Draughtsman required in Architect's Department. Applicants must be capable draughtsmen with a good knowledge of modern building construction and finishes. The appointment is permanent, a pension scheme and other amenities are available. Apply stating age, details of training, experience, and salary required, to the Works Employment Officer, Appleby-Frodingham Steel Company, Scunthorpe, Lincs. [8124]

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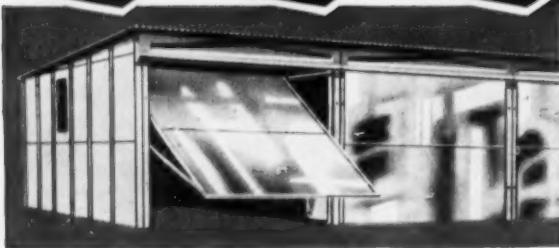
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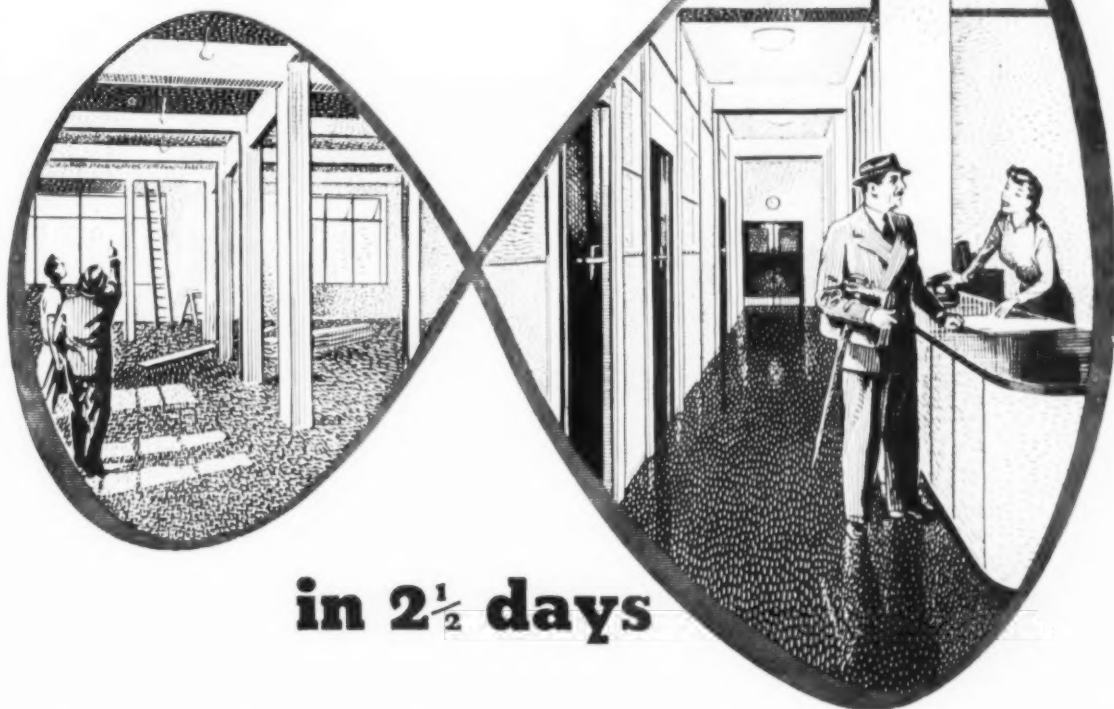
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FREEDOM TO CHOOSE—With "Compactitioning" you are not tied to any particular material. There's a choice of materials (and finishes) to suit the needs of your job. Materials used in "Compactitioning" include "Compactite", "Holoplast", "Plimberite", "Stramit", corkboard and plasterboard.

FREEDOM TO CHANGE—"Compactitioning" gives you solidity with mobility. It is easy to dismantle and re-erect to meet changed requirements.

FREEDOM FROM LICENSING—"Compactitioning" units are free of all licences and available by the foot or by the mile.

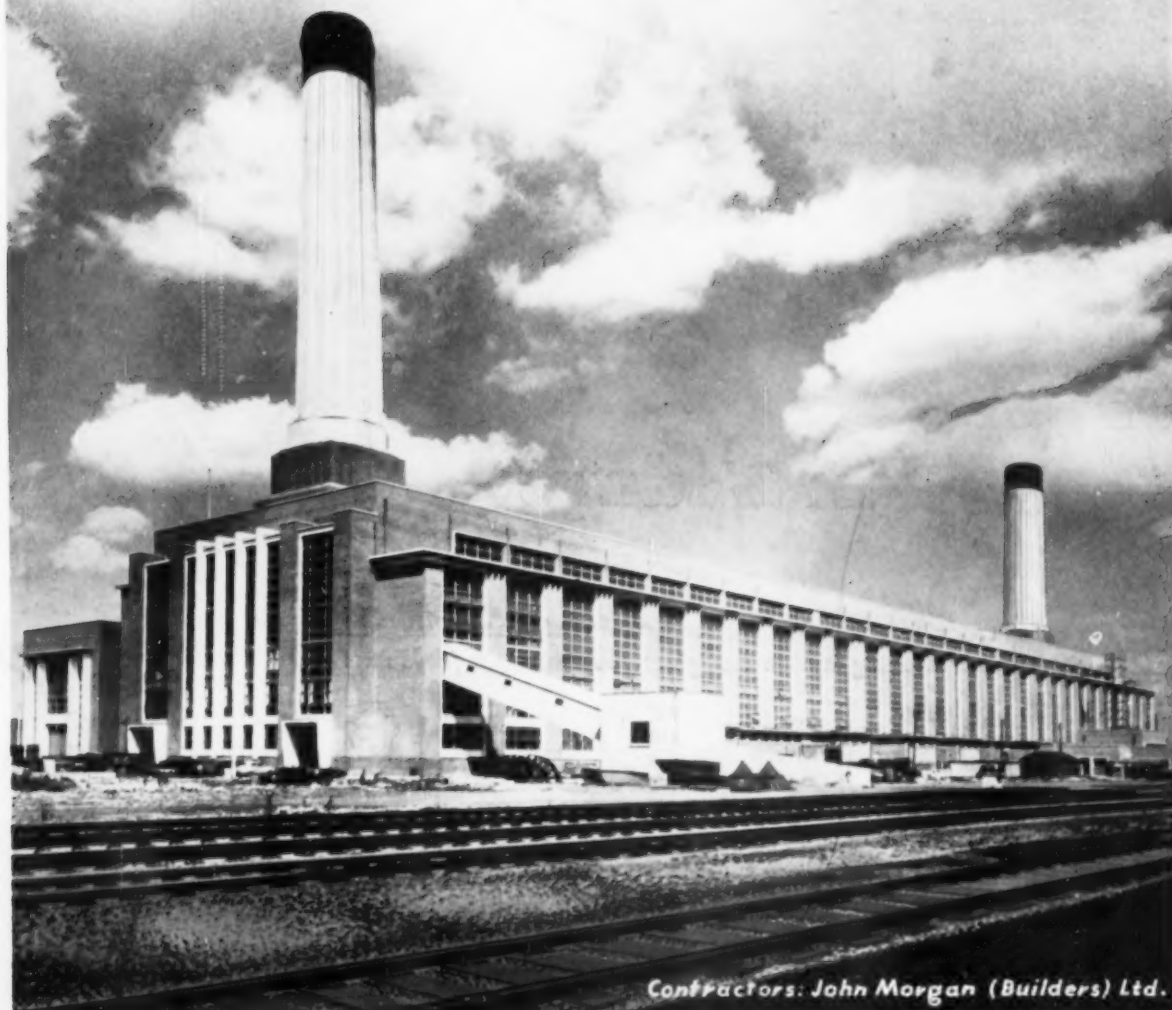
FREEDOM FROM TROUBLE—Your problem, big or small, can be solved in our drawing office. This tailor-made service costs no more because partitioning is built up from standardised components. This reduces site work and cuts down disturbance in occupied premises.

WHEN YOU DECIDE TO DIVIDE—USE

PARTITIONING BY COMPACTOM

COMPACTOM LTD., OXGATE LANE, CRICKLEWOOD, LONDON, N.W.2. PHONE: GLADSTONE 2600

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British Electricity Authority



Contractors: John Morgan (Builders) Ltd.

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